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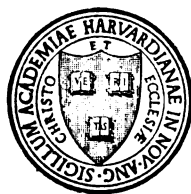




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# The Low Side Windows of Warwickshire Churches.

A PAPER READ TO  
THE BIRMINGHAM ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY,  
MARCH 21ST, 1906.

BY  
F. T. S. HOUGHTON, M.A., F.G.S.

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Transactions of the Society.*

WALSALL:  
W. HENRY ROBINSON, THE WALSALL PRESS.  
1907.











# *The Low Side Windows of Warwickshire Churches.*

By F. T. S. HOUGHTON, M.A., F.G.S.

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*March 21st, 1906.*

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**I**N the Southern or Northern wall of many mediæval chancels, a foot or more from its western extremity, there is often to be found a small "window" whose sill is much lower than that of the adjacent fenestration. Sometimes (Brinklow, Pl. IV., fig. 2) the opening is the lower part of a lancet, or other window, from the upper portion of which it is, or has been separated by a transome. Very often it is blocked by masonry (Burton Hastings, Pl. IV., fig. 4), or was in that condition until some comparatively recent restoration, when the masonry was removed, and the opening closed with glass. Very rarely the aperture is closed by a wooden shutter (Oxhill, Pl. III., fig. 2) though there is much reason for believing that most of them were so originally.

These openings have been designated by various terms, according to the theories which have been put forward to explain their occurrence, but the most convenient of these seems to be "low side windows," as being the one which, less than any of the others, commits the user to a definite theory of their purpose. Even this term has however been objected to by no mean authority<sup>(1)</sup> on the ground that these structures are not always "low," sometimes not "side," and never (in the true sense of the word) "windows."

Low side windows occupy quite a remarkable position in the domain of Ecclesiastical Archæology, owing to the fact that of all the numerous, diverse, and in some cases grotesque theories that during the last 60 years have been elaborated to account for their existence, not one gives a satisfactory explanation applicable to all the examples that occur.

**Classification.**—Before giving any account of these theories it will be convenient to attempt some classification of the various types of opening. In this I have to some extent followed that of Mr. Hodgson.<sup>(2)</sup>

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(1) Hodgson. *Archæol. Æliana*, xxiii., p. 43.

(2) *Loc. Cit.*: pp. 44-5.



- I.—Those which are independent of the general scheme of fenestration. These are usually insertions in the wall in which they occur (*e.g.*, Baginton, Pl. II., fig. 2).
- II.—(a) Those which lie symmetrically placed below a lancet, are apparently of the same date, but are separated from it by a considerable vertical space. (*e.g.*, Salford Priors, Pl. v., fig. 1).  
(b) Those which in the same way are symmetrically placed below one light of a two or three light window, but are separated by a vertical space (*e.g.*, Bilton, Pl. v., fig. 2).
- III.—(a) Lancets generally low silled, belonging to an existing, or formerly existing general scheme of fenestration, the low side opening being divided off by a transome (*e.g.*, Brinklow, Pl. IV., fig. 2).  
(b) Lancets, as above, in which there is no transome (*e.g.*, Norton Lindsay, Pl. VI., fig. 2). In some cases this has disappeared, in others there was a wooden frame in the lower part of the window, in others again the whole window was shuttered (*e.g.*, Packwood, Pl. VI., fig. 4).
- IV.—Those in which one light of a two or three light window has a lower sill than that of the rest of the window, and the lower part of it is divided from the upper by a transome (*e.g.*, Ladbroke, Pl. VII., fig. 1).
- V.—(a) Those in which the sill of a two or three light window is at a lower level than those of the adjacent fenestration, and the lower parts of all the lights are cut off by transomes. In some cases (*e.g.*, Temple Balsall,<sup>(1)</sup> Pl. VI., fig. 3) all the lower portions had shutters, in others (*e.g.*, Burton Dassett, Pl. VIII., fig. 2) only one.  
(b) Those as above in which there are no transomes. In some cases these may have been removed, in others both jambs, or one jamb and one side of the mullion are rebated for the reception of a shutter or frame (*e.g.*, Rowington, Pl. IX., fig. 2; Shotteswell, Pl. VIII., fig. 4).
- VI.—Those in which two narrow slits are cut side by side in a single slab of stone (*e.g.*, Wixford, Pl. IX., fig. 3).

[For a list of Warwickshire low side windows classified as above, see p. 74.]

The following exceptional cases require notice.

A few low side windows have on their interior splay a reading desk, as at Doddington (Kent),<sup>(2)</sup> Elsfield (Oxon.),<sup>(3)</sup>; others have one splay hollowed out

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(1) Stated to have had three shutters. *Ecclesiologist*, Vol. IX., p. 113.

(2) *Archaeol. Cantiana*, IX., 236.

(3) *Archaeol. Journ.*, IV., 316.



into a seat, with or without a desk on the opposite splay, as at Melton Constable (Norfolk),<sup>(1)</sup> and Wigginton (Oxon.).<sup>(2)</sup>

At Othery (Somerset) the Southern low side window had a diagonal buttress built in front of it<sup>(3)</sup> to strengthen the Tower. When this was done it was thought necessary to cut a square hole through it in a direct line with the opening of the low side window.<sup>(4)</sup>

In a few cases a "low side window" is found in a building which is on the first floor, as in Prior Crawden's Chapel, Ely, where its sill is 10 feet from the ground.<sup>(5)</sup> Other examples occur in the chapels of Winchester College and of Leeds Castle, Kent. In some churches they occur in an aisle or nave wall as at Kenilworth or in a porch as at Horsham.<sup>(6)</sup>

**Chronological account of the various theories.**—The peculiarities of low side windows would seem to have entirely escaped the notice of the earlier writers on Church Architecture, possibly to a certain extent because these openings were, in so many cases, blocked up and plastered over. In the drawings of Warwickshire Churches in the Aylesford Collection (1815–1820),<sup>(7)</sup> in several instances in which a chancel wall, now known to contain a low side window, is shown, there is in the picture no indication of its presence.

The first definite allusion, which I have been able to find, is in a description of Hurley Church in *The Gentleman's Magazine* for 1839. It was not until some years later that the subject had been sufficiently discussed to allow of its inclusion in Manuals of Gothic Architecture. It is not mentioned in the editions of Parker's Glossary, of Rickman, or of Bloxam published prior to 1850. Paley however in his Manual published in 1846 discusses it at some length.

The traditional view of the function of these openings is generally stated to be that they were for confessional purposes, but no allusion to this is made in the description of the Hurley example cited above. The description runs as follows.<sup>(8)</sup> "Under the second window from the East in the South wall of the chancel" is a shallow square headed recess in which is an ogee headed pierced spandrelled panel. What this was is difficult to say. "It is too near the ground to have been a stoup, and too small for the doorway to a crypt, being only 22in. by 34in. It may however have been an opening through which to view and worship from the churchyard the relics of some saint contained within the chancel."

**The Lychnoscopic theory.**—The serious study of low side windows seems to have been first taken up by the members of the Cambridge Camden Society, who in the 3rd edition (c. 1840) of "A Few Hints on the Practical Study of Ecclesiastical

(1) *Antiquary*, XXI., 121.

(2) *Archaeol. Aeliana*, XXIII., 67.

(3) *Notes and Queries*, Series IV., Vol. I., 488.

(4) *Figs. Archaeol. Journ.*, 1V., 322.

(5) *Loc. cit.*, p. 320.

(6) *Reliquary*, XXIV., 129.

(7) Now in the Birmingham Reference Library.

(8) *Gent. Mag.*, 1839, I., 260.



Architecture" give to them the name "Lychnoscopes" with the following explanation of their use. "During the last three nights of Passion week lights were kept burning on the Holy Sepulchre, and at all times in chantries, and upon High Altars. The window probably served for those whose business it was to keep them in, to satisfy themselves that all was right, the other windows being too high for the purpose. Hence they generally occur on the South side because the Easter Sepulchre is usually on the North." In the 4th Edition (c. 1842) this explanation is withdrawn as being untenable, because the light would in most cases be invisible, but the term Lychnoscope remained.

**The Leper theory.**—Dr. Rock in his book "Church of our Fathers" (184-) first enunciated this theory, which, though soon discredited, still keeps a hold on the popular imagination. "That some one" he says<sup>(1)</sup> "usually slept in almost every church is told us by many passages in ecclesiastical documents." Indeed most churches could be securely closed only from the inside by a bar or stake. "Of those men who slept in churches the greater number were . . . *inclusi* or ankrets . . . These men 'inclusi' were very often in priests' orders and therefore said mass . . . Amongst those several uses for the low side window, with its bars and shutter . . . one assuredly was that the recluse or ankret dwelling therein might speak and be spoken with through its cross grating after public service time and when the doors of the church were shut." Dr. Rock points out that the low side windows were placed in the most conspicuous position so that no secret interview could be held. That where low side windows occur on the North side of a chancel they were not provided with grating and shutter. If any such should become known, it would probably be where the town was mostly on the North side, making that the more public side. That when the shutter was open the ankret could address a group of hearers, hence the curious arrangement at Othery (*ante* p. 64). "Through the low side window then the *leper*, who was forbidden to go within the church's walls, might strive to hear as best he could his mass on Sundays and Holy-days, although unable, on account of the half-closed shutter to behold the ceremony . . . Martène<sup>(2)</sup> instances a window through which the Holy Communion used to be given to a leprous nun. '*Devenue lepreuse elle fut séparée selon la coutume, et on voit encore la fenêtre par laquelle elle venait recevoir la communion.*' Through this same window too the parish priest might hear the leper's confession and give him the Holy Eucharist." The chief objections to this theory are (i.) that the Church treated the leper as dead; (ii.) that the grating was often so narrow that the administration of the Holy Eucharist through it would be impossible: and (iii.) that the sill is often too low even for the kneeling position.

**The Confessional theory.**—Early in 1844<sup>(3)</sup> a writer in *The Gentleman's Magazine* called attention to a letter from Richard Bedyll (Clerk of the Council to Henry VIII.) to Thomas Cromwell, then engaged in a visitation of the Monastery of

(1) *Edn.* 1903, Vol. III., pp. 94 *et seq.*

(2) *Litt. de Deux Benedict*, I., pt. 2, p. 205.

(3) *Gent. Mag.*, 1844, I., 375.



Sion. In it occurs the following passage, which I transcribe in full. "We have sequestered Whitford and Litell from hering of the ladys confessions; and we think it best that the place, wher thes frires have been wont to hire uttward confessions of al commers at certen tymes of the yere, be walled up for ever; ffor that the hering of utward confessions hath been the cause of much evyl, and of much treson which hath been sowed abrode in this mater of the kings title, and also in the kinges graces mater of his succession and mariage."<sup>(1)</sup> This, it will be seen, has reference to a monastic church, but it does not seem unlikely that a similar practice of outward confession for all comers should have prevailed in parochial churches also. It should however be pointed out that Bedyll's letter refers only to a single monastic church, and that there is no documentary evidence whatever of orders having been given to block up openings in parochial churches.

The Confessional theory is strongly advocated by Mr. P. M. Johnston in his excellent papers on the low side windows of the Sussex and Surrey Churches,<sup>(2)</sup> although he admits that the openings may have been made,—or more probably—used when made, to meet more than one requirement. He points out that according to Bloxam<sup>(3)</sup> auricular confession was established by or at the time of the 4th Lateran Council (1215). Shortly after this, in 1221, the Dominicans (Blackfriars) came to England and the Franciscans followed them in 1224. In 1265 Pope Clement IV., empowered this latter order to preach, *hear confessions*, give absolution and enjoin penance without the assent of the parochial clergy (Wadding. *Annales fratrum minorum*, II., p. 101). Twenty-two years later the then Archbishop of Canterbury (Wilkins' Concilia, auct: Bloxam) granted them license to hear confessions and give absolution without the assent of the parish priest. *le. 125y*

*But they begin in Norman times.*

The provision of low side windows beginning, with a few possible exceptions, in the 13th century and reaching a maximum in the 14th, seems then to be coincident with the period during which the friars obtained and exercised their powers of hearing confessions. There are obvious reasons why confessions heard in this way should not, under certain circumstances, take place in the church itself. By the constitutions of Walter Reynold, Archbishop of Canterbury (1322)<sup>(4)</sup> "the priest about to hear confessions was to choose some common place in the church where he might be seen of all indifferently, and was not allowed to exercise that rite, especially as regarded women, in obscure places, except from urgent necessity." But in the case of the travelling Friar there might be no persons to witness the act wherever carried out within the church, hence the probability of confession at the low side window.

The existence of stone seats and desks in connection with some low side windows is also most easily explained on the confessional theory.

Strong support is also given to this theory by the fact that in Denmark, the only country besides our own in which low side windows are at all numerous, most of them

(1) *Camaen Soc. Letters*, Wright, p. 48.

(2) *Sussex Arch. Collections*, XLI., XLII.; *Surrey ditto*, XIV., XVI.

(3) *Manual* (1882), II., 124.

(4) Bloxam, *loc. cit.*



are so small that it is difficult to imagine they were used for any other purpose than to hear through. Attention was first called to the Danish examples in 1852 by Dr. J. M. Neale.<sup>(1)</sup> After a lapse of over 50 years they have again been investigated by Mr. Ambrose Boyson.<sup>(2)</sup> He finds "low set openings" (as he terms them) very usual in the churches of Jutland, generally occurring in the South wall of the chancel about 3ft. from its Western termination. They are of two types—(i.) circular openings, 9" to 12" in diameter, narrowing at the centre of the wall to 4" to 8", and then expanding into a rectangular opening within; (ii.) round-headed openings, resembling small Romanesque windows 18" to 27" in height, and from 7" to 22" in width. They are in all cases blocked by masonry.

**The symbolical (vulne window) theory** was proposed by a member of the Cambridge Camden Society who suggested<sup>(3)</sup> that since "it is almost possible morally to prove that" lychnoscopes "could not have had a practical use" they must have been symbolical, and that they represented the *wound* in our Saviour's side. The objection that the position is wrong is met by the statements (i.) that 12th and 13th century chancels were frequently as long as or longer than the nave; (ii.) that the proportions of the human form were often widely departed from in mediæval design. Double low side windows (North and South) are explained by the idea that, it not being certain on which side the wound was, openings were inserted on both sides of the chancel. On the above theory the term "Vulne Window" is suggested in place of Lychnoscope. In a previous paper<sup>(4)</sup> the West windows of aisles are stated often to have peculiar features, and to be symbolical of the wounds in the feet; for them the term "Pede Windows" is suggested. The objections to this theory of low side windows are too patent to require actual statement.

**The offertory theory** was brought forward by Mr. Paley in 1846.<sup>(5)</sup> and is based on a passage in Martène<sup>(6)</sup> that these openings were "Offertory Windows" made for the use of Ankers or Solitarii. The whole passage (as quoted by Mr. Parker)<sup>(7)</sup> is as follows:—"Oratorium ita sit domui ecclesiæ contiguum, quatenus idem solitarius per fenestram ejusdem oratorii possit ad missas per manus sacerdotum oblationes offerre."<sup>(8)</sup> It seems clear that the opening referred to is that existing between a "domus inclusi" and the church, and not a low side window. Mr. Paley quotes only a part of the sentence, and thus gives a more general meaning to the injunction.

**Mr. Parker's paper.**—A year later Mr. Parker's classical paper appeared.<sup>(9)</sup> In this communication, characterized by the late Mr. J. L. André as "the one really

(1) *Ecclesiologist*, XIII., 215.

(2) *Arch. Journ.*, LXIII., 1.

(3) *Ecclesiologist*, V., p. 187.

(4) p. 160.

(5) *Manual of Gothic Architecture*, p. 240.

(6) *De Antiquis Ecclesiæ Ritibus*, Lib. I., cap. iv.

(7) *Arch. Journ.*, IV., p. 324.

(8) The ankerhold should be so near to the church that at mass the anker may offer his oblations through the window of his ankerhold by the hands of the priests.

(9) *Arch. Journ.*, IV., pp. 314—.



solid contribution to the literature of the subject" no less than 12 then prevalent theories are discussed, and the objections to them given. A large number of examples is figured, but no particular theory is selected to explain them.

**The Eucharistic theory.**—In February, 1848,<sup>(1)</sup> Mr. G. E. Street described a series of paintings<sup>(2)</sup> which had been recently discovered on the walls of Eton College Chapel. The westernmost of the upper range of subjects on the South side represents a priest at the altar administering the Holy Eucharist to three or four persons, while another priest with an attendant is administering through a low side window (as nearly similar in position and size to the sort of window in question as can be expected in a painting) to a boy—the son of a Jew—whose face is seen through the opening. The inscription is "*Qualiter cujusdam Judæi filius cum Xtianis communionem recipiens . . . . a beatâ Virgine . . . . legenda sanctorum.*" On the opposite side is a representation of confession in the usual style; the priest sitting, and the penitent whispering in his ear.<sup>(3)</sup>

The objections to this theory are the same as those already alleged in the case of the Leper theory.

**The Ventilation theory.**—In May, 1850,<sup>(4)</sup> Mr. F. P. Lowe, in a paper before the Northants and Lincolnshire Archæological Association, advanced the suggestion that low side windows were for the purpose of ventilation. The position however is not particularly suitable for this purpose, and no similar openings are found in the domestic buildings of the Middle Ages.

**The Sanctus Bell theory.**—In March, 1848,<sup>(5)</sup> Mr. J. J. Cole called attention to a passage in the "Constitutions of Archbishop Peckham" (1281), which reads as follows:—"In elevatione vero ipsius corporis Domini pulsetur campana in uno latere, ut populares, quibus celebrationi missarum non vacat quotidie interesse, ubicunque fuerint, seu in agris seu in domibus, flectant genua."<sup>(6)</sup> He suggests that low side windows were for the purpose of ringing a handbell through at the time of the elevation of the Host, and points out that the openings are generally on that side or on those sides of the church on which the houses of the village chiefly lay.

Another piece of documentary evidence which seems to have a bearing on this theory is to be found in "The Autobiographical Narrative of Thomas Hancock, Minister of Poole,"<sup>(7)</sup> one of the MSS. collected by Foxe the Martyrologist, but not used by him in his great work. The passage, to which attention was first called by Mr. Penting,<sup>(8)</sup> is as follows:—"This satisfied not the Papistes; but they wold have

(1) *Ecclesiologist* VIII., 288.

(2) I am informed by Mr. Warre-Cornish, Vice-Provost of Eton, that these paintings, which were all either covered up or destroyed, were copied by Essex in 1847, and that the copies are now in the College Library. I cannot find that they have been engraved.

(3) See also *Ecclesiologist* IX., 113. (4) *Ecclesiologist* XI., 62. (5) *Arch. Journ.*, V., 70.

(6) At the elevation of the Host a bell shall be sounded on one side that those people who have no leisure to take part daily in the celebration of Mass, may, wheresoever they be, abroad or in their houses, bend their knees in adoration.

(7) *Camden Soc. Publications*, Vol. 77, p. 71.

(8) *Antiquary* 1890, 122.

(8) *Reliquary (old)*, IX. 16.

John Peggott

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Other theories remain to be mentioned, each of which may be dismissed

**Censing.**—That the acolyte used the opening to pass his censer the charcoal required fanning; but the gratings would prevent this.

**Peepes** through which the Elevation of the Host might be seen from the street is quite untenable for they seldom or never commanded a view of the

fact that the low side window is usually on the populous side of the church is also considered by the upholders of this theory to be in favour of their view. The small diameter of many of the openings, when the existence of the opening is taken into account, makes the passage of a handbell through them

Also, as Mr. Hodgson (*loc. cit.*) points out, Archbishop Peckham was a canon, and in a legal instrument, would be careful to use legal and technical language. Now the word *campana*<sup>(1)</sup> means the big bell of a campanile, not a bell as would be used in the choir, to which the term *cymbalum* is applied.

"*Campana*" refers then (he says) to the side of the bell, not to the side of the church. It is also to be noted that, where there is a sanctus bell-cot, there is often a low window as well, e.g., Long Compton, Whichford.

**The exhibition of lights wherewith to scare away evil**

This theory first, I think, suggested by "Rusticus" in 1848,<sup>(2)</sup> has recently been elaborated in a most comprehensive paper<sup>(3)</sup> by Rev. J. F. Hodgson. He has shown the all-pervading belief of our mediæval ancestors in evil spirits, and how the uses of the cross (whether formative or material), of holy water, incense, oil, and fire all had to do with the expulsion or exorcism of these evil spirits. He quotes largely from Durandus the interpretations, given by the mediæval ecclesiastical ceremonies, to show how strong and universal was the belief in the constant active interference of evil spirits in the affairs of the living; even after death people were not considered to be safe from the influence of these powers of the under-world. Says Durandus, "The bodies of the dead are to be asperged, not that their sins may be taken away, but that they be protected from evil spirits." Mr. Hodgson then points out that it is possible that the lights burned round the coffins of deceased persons (ii.), the *Lanternes des Fanoux* of French, and the *Todtenleuchten* of German burial grounds, (iii.) the lanterns bracketted out from the walls of certain Austrian churches may have

been used to serve the purpose of scaring away evil spirits from the cemeteries in which they were placed. The last named he considers to be the connecting link between the *Fanoux*, &c., and the English low side windows which he believes to have been constructed to allow of a light, placed on their broad internal sills, being used to scare away the powers of darkness from the consecrated ground.

(1) *Vid.* Neale and Webb's *Symbolism*, being a translation of Bk. IV. of Durandus' *Rationale*, &c., p. 93.

(2) *Archæol. Journ.*, V., 228.

(3) *Archæol. Æliana*, XXIII., 43.

*It would not be through. J.*

*But one may of contemporary date? J.*



solid contribution to the literature of the subject" no less than 12 theories are discussed, and the objections to them given. A large number is figured, but no particular theory is selected to explain them.

**The Eucharistic theory.**—In February, 1848,<sup>(1)</sup> Mr. G. E. Strickland discovered a series of paintings<sup>(2)</sup> which had been recently discovered on the walls of the Chapel. The westernmost of the upper range of subjects on the South side is the priest administering the Holy Eucharist to three or four persons. The internal sill, but fails to account for the shutter, though there may have been some ceremony which required the obscuration of the light at certain times.

**For the Viewing of the Rood.**—It was first suggested by Mr. J. J. Rogers in 1854<sup>(3)</sup> that low side windows had to do with the service of the Rood and were constructed to afford a view of the figure of the Saviour which hung from the chancel arch or was placed over the chancel screen; this theory was revived by Mr. T. P. Pritchett in *The Antiquary* for 1890,<sup>(3)</sup> but seems to have hardly received the attention it deserves, for, although there is no documentary evidence to support it, the fact that almost all low side openings command a view of the rood screen is an important point in its favour (*vid.* Pl. I, fig. 2; Pl. III, fig. 1; Pl. VI, fig. 4).

**To secure additional light.**—This suggestion was first made by M. Viollet le Duc, and has recently been revived by Mr. Bedford Pim<sup>(4)</sup> who points out that, while no one explanation or purpose will satisfy the different conditions of the known examples, it is probable that a large proportion of the openings was made to give more light to those within the church at a time when the fenestration was found to be inadequate. But this theory fails entirely to explain small openings situated low down, or to account for the shutter. Why, too, should windows used for such a purpose have been universally blocked up? There are several examples in Warwickshire (*e.g.*, Sutton-under-Brailes, *vid.* p. 95) in which low silled 14th century two-light windows have apparently replaced 13th century lancets, and seem at first sight to bear out Mr. Pim's theory, but some of these are grooved for shutters, and where this is not the case new stone work or cement has probably destroyed the evidence of a once existing rebate.

At Aston Cantlow however (*vid.* p. 97) there is evidence of the lowering of the sill of a two-light window which cannot, I think, have been used as a low side window; At Berkswell again a 14th century window, whose sill is about 33in. from the floor, was inserted in the 12th century wall obviously to give light. There are no traces of "low side" use, and the sill is 7ft. or 8ft. above the ground outside. The same may be said of a 3-light square-headed window at Hampton-in-Arden; this is late 14th century and is inserted in the West end of the South chancel wall close to a two-light early 14th century window.

(1) *Arch. Journ.*, V., 228 (Rusticus).

(2) *Arch. Journ.*, XI., 33.

(3) Vol. XXI., 217; see also *Arch. Journ.*, LXII., 34.

(4) *Arch. Journ.*, LXII., 19.



Three **other theories** remain to be mentioned, each of which may be dismissed very briefly.

**For Incensing.**—That the acolyte used the opening to pass his censer through, when the charcoal required fanning; but the gratings would prevent this.

**Hagioscopes** through which the Elevation of the Host might be seen from without. This is quite untenable for they seldom or never commanded a view of the altar.

For the **distribution of alms.** There is no evidence of this practice and the grating would be unnecessary and inconvenient.

**Dial markings.**—It has been suggested that there is some connection between low side windows and the so-called dial marks which frequently occur on the walls of churches. Most cases that I have observed in this county are on churches having low side windows, but by no means always near to the aperture. The marks do not seem to have anything to do with sun-dials, but are, most probably, a remnant of some pre-Christian superstition.<sup>(1)</sup>

**Summary.**—I have now given an account of all the theories which, so far as I have been able to discover, have been suggested to explain the existence of low side openings, but I do not think we have at present sufficient evidence to enable us to decide what was their primary intention, if indeed the original use was the same for all. One is inclined to think that they were used perhaps during the same period, perhaps in successive periods, for distinct purposes. That some of these purposes were outside, and possibly even alien to the ordinary practice of the mediæval church is rather borne out by the remarkable fact that in contemporary documents there are so few allusions, and none of these particularly satisfactory, to a structure which seems to have been present in more than one half of the churches of the time. For whatever purpose, or purposes they were intended, they were often hurriedly and rudely constructed, particularly those of the 14th century in walls of an earlier date. In Warwickshire only a small proportion of the "separate" openings of decorated date have any pretence to beauty or finish. In one case only (Bilton, Pl. v., fig. 2) has a rectangular opening been provided with a hood mould, and the lancet openings are generally without this finish. Not only is the purpose of the openings hidden in obscurity, but there is no record, save the letter of Bedyll to Cromwell (referring, as I have pointed out, to a *Monastic* church) which throws any light upon the circumstances under which they were so universally and effectually stopped up by a blocking of masonry. That this should have been done practically in every case, and that no reference should have been found to Royal or Episcopal orders to that effect, is not the least surprising part of the history of the subject.

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(1) Vid. *Arch. Journ.*, XLVI., 156. Cup and circle markings on church walls in Warwickshire and neighbourhood. *W. Andrews.*



Yet the search for further clues as to the origin of low side windows is by no means hopeless. A diligent examination of contemporary records may yet yield evidence as to their origin and final abolition. A careful and systematic record of measurements of all existing examples, and of their relations horizontal and vertical with the other parts of the church and with the objects contained in it, may, by the process of exhaustion, lead us to a more satisfactory determination of their uses than we have at present reached.

#### WARWICKSHIRE LOW SIDE WINDOWS.

**General.**—The low side windows of Warwickshire, although very numerous, include but few examples of a particularly remarkable or interesting character. Of the 213 churches, which are ancient, or are the churches of ancient parishes, 139 have, or had within the last 30 years, chancels of pre-Reformation date. Of these 139 chancels 70 or 50% have low side windows; in addition to these four churches now entirely rebuilt are shown in the Aylesford drawings to have low side openings, and two more, Leamington Hastings and Kenilworth, have them in their North aisle and South nave walls respectively. This makes a total of 76 altogether, a proportion about the same as that found in three of the four other counties for which I have been able to obtain statistics.<sup>(1)</sup>

It has been sometimes stated that the occurrence of low side windows might have something to do with the churches, in which they are situated, being in monastic patronage. I have therefore taken out from Dugdale the pre-Reformation patronage of all the Warwickshire livings, and have classified them into groups as follows:—

- A.—Gives the actual number of the 213 ancient churches whose patronage fell at one time or another under the bodies or persons indicated.
- B.—Gives the same statistics for all churches having pre-Reformation chancels and *no* low side windows.
- C.—For all having such chancels with low side windows (including Kenilworth and Leamington Hastings but excluding the four cases obtained from the Aylesford drawings).

[For the purpose of these statistics the 23 ancient chapelries have been considered to have been in the patronage of the patrons of the parish of which they were a part.]

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(1) Mr. P. M. Johnston informs me that in Sussex of 315 ancient churches (probably originally 350) about one half can be proved to have had low side windows; and that of the 145 ancient Surrey churches the proportion is about the same.

In Durham Mr. Hodgson (*Arch. Æliana* XXIII., 202) states that in 27 of the 74 ancient churches the evidence is obscured or destroyed; in 25 of the remaining 47 low side windows do, or till lately did exist.

On the other hand Dr. Cox (*Antiquary* XXI., 217) records that there are but 9 examples in some 130 Derbyshire Churches.



		Monastic.	Collegiate.	Capitular.	Episcopal.	University.	Hospitallers.	Private.	Various and unknown.
A	213*	138—65%	5	8	10	4	4	45	5
B	67	40—60%	1	1	5	1	1	16	2
C	72*	54—75%	1	3	2	0	1	12	1

\* The totals are greater than 213, &c., because some churches passed (*e.g.*) from private into monastic patronage during the period under consideration.

This difference between the percentage (75) of churches possessing low side windows that were in monastic patronage, and that (60) of those that were in such patronage, and did not possess them, does not seem great enough to warrant the idea that monastic influence had anything to do with the provisions of these openings.

NOTE.—In surveying these statistics one cannot but be struck by the extent of the monastic patronage; two-thirds of the livings were in the hands of the religious orders; if to these we add those in the patronage of the Templars and Hospitallers, and in that of Collegiate bodies the proportion becomes seven-tenths. The effect of this upon the present value of parochial cures is worth noting. In almost all cases in which monastic houses obtained the patronage of a living, they either took the whole of the tithes and appointed a stipendiary curate, or, as was more commonly the case, had the great tithes appropriated to them, and appointed to take charge of the parish a Vicarius, who would receive the small tithes. At the dissolution of the monasteries the great tithes passed, as a rule, into lay hands and were for ever alienated from religious and charitable purposes. It is worth noting too what a great number of livings were in the gift of particular monasteries. In Warwickshire, of the 129 livings (excluding chapelries) in the gift of religious houses, there were at one time or another in the hands of:—The Priory of Kenilworth, 34; The Priory of Coventry, 20; Maxstoke and Monks Kirby, 6 each; Leicester and Markyate (Beds.), 5 each; Merevale, Arbury, Evesham, Axholm (Lincs.), Nostell (Yorks.), Studley, Coventry Carthusians, Polesworth Nuns, 4 or 3 each; 8 others 2 each; and 20 more, 1; while 6 at one time or another were in the hands of Alien Priories.

**Distribution.**—The 76 churches having low side windows are fairly evenly distributed over the county. Of the three areas which contain few or none, that South of Leamington is one in which most of the chancels are of post-Reformation date. In this district therefore the proportion of low side openings may in mediæval times have been quite as great as in other parts of the county. Their absence in the area lying North-West of Coventry and in the Western portion of the county cannot be explained in the same way, but I am unable to suggest any reason for their practical non-occurrence in these districts.

In Warwickshire, as in other parts of the country, we do not find low side windows in the large churches in the towns, nor in Collegiate churches such as Astley and Knowle. In fact the smaller and more insignificant the edifice, the more likely we are to find it provided with one of these openings.

#### DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF WARWICKSHIRE LOW SIDE WINDOWS.

In the descriptions which follow, where nothing is said with regard to the splay, it is to be assumed that it is even. The "lie" of the population of the parish with regard to the low side windows has been given, not only on account of its bearing on the sanctus bell theory, but also because it may turn out to have some unexpected meaning in the light of other theories already proposed, or to be put forth in the future. From the list which immediately follows it may be seen that out of the seven cases in which there is a North opening only, there is but one (Wixford), and that a peculiar example, in which the population lies to the South; and only one other (Ladbroke), in which it does not lie to the North, or North and East.



## CLASSIFIED LIST, WITH SUMMARY OF DIMENSIONS, &amp;c.

I.										Direction of village, or population.
INDEPENDENT OPENINGS										
(a) Large Rectangular.										
		Position.	Height.	Width.	Height above floor.	Height above ground, or base mould. #	Distance from channel wall.			
1 Ashow ...	...	S.	44	18½	—	30	18	}	N., W., S.	
" ...	...	N.	31	10	—	22	12			
2 Baginton ...	...	S.	29½	9	24½	29	12		S. & E.	
3 Bubbenhall ...	...	S.	36	25	20	20	9		S. & E.	
4 Chilvers Coton ...	...	N.	19	14½	7	9*	—		N.	
5 Church Lawford ...	...	N.	23	11	33	38*	35		W. & N.W.	
6 Cubbington ...	...	N.	—	—	—	—	—		S., S.W., N.	
7 Dunehurh ...	...	S.	50	12	36	20*	36	}	S.	
" ...	...	N.	28½	11	46	28*	27		S.W.	
8 Farnboro' ...	...	S.	28½	14	—	34	34		N.	
9 Haseley ...	...	S.	—	—	—	—	—		No village.	
10 Hunningham ...	...	S.	30	15	—	14*	17	}	S. & E.	
" ...	...	N.	30	15	—	—	—		also N.	
11 Kingsbury ...	...	S.	21	16	26	0	4		All sides.	
12 Newton Regis ...	...	S.	28	12½	11	12*	13		S. & W.	
13 Wyken ...	...	S.	30½	21	—	38	36		S.	
(b) Small Rectangular.										
14 Biokenhill ...	...	S.	17	7	50	50	30		S.	
15 Caldecote ...	...	S.	15	7½	(14)	8*	48½	}	S. & E.	
" ...	...	N.	18	10½	—	—	—			
16 Lillington ...	...	S.	17½	10½	—	36	24		S. & E.	
17 Sheldon ...	...	S.	4½	2½	34	30*	22		N. & S.	
18 Stockton ...	...	N.	14	14	(19½)	(3)	27		N. & W.	
(c) Lancets.										
19 Ansley ...	...	S.	35	12	48	30	23	}	N. & S.	
" ...	...	N.	?	?	—	—	?			
20 Baxterley ...	...	S.	50	18	36	36*	18		Not S.	
21 Burton Hastings ...	...	S.	51(?)	17½	36	4	15		S. & S.W.	
22 Frankton ...	...	S.	36	15½	—	50*	12½	}	N.E.	
" ...	...	N.	34	14	—	—	11½		S.W.	
23 Long Compton ...	...	S.	—	32	36	—	—		S.	
24 Harbury ...	...	S.	46½	14	36	—	18		S., S.W., N.E.	
25 Idlicote ...	...	N.	30	10½	34	9	15		N.E.	
26 Kenilworth ...	...	S.	25½	5½	—	32	—		N.	
27 Leamington Hastings ...	...	N.	24½	14	42	36*	—		N. & E.	
28 Maxstoke ...	...	S.	45	13	—	36	—		E. & S.	
29 Offchurch ...	...	S.	33	10½	28½	14	16		N., S., E.	
30 Oxhill ...	...	N.	29	12	37	39*	22		N.	
31 Pillerton Hersey ...	...	S.	37½	10½	20	31	14		S. & E.	
32 Seckington ...	...	S.	40	11	14	26*	9		S. & E.	
33 Sherborne ...	...	S.	—	—	—	—	—		N.	
34 Ufton ...	...	S.	39	12½	21	31	48	}	N., S.	
" ...	...	N.	39	12½	?	?	48			
35 Whichford ...	...	S.	30	11	36	36	16		N., E., S.	
36 Whitechurch ...	...	S.	16?	10?	—	34*	36		N.W., S.	
37 Wolston ...	...	S.	—	—	—	20*	—		S.W.	
II.										
(a) Salford Type.										
1 Salford Priors ...	...	S.	24½	6½	28½	23*	75	}	N.	
" ...	...	N.	24½	6½	—	—	—		S.W.	
(b) Bilton Type.										
2 Bilton ...	...	S.	20	18	(41)	34*	36		S.W.	
3 Coleshill ...	...	N. & S.	38	12	38½	—	11		N., S., W.	
4 Grandborough ...	...	S.	23½	17½	—	26	27		S.W.	

Possibly IIb. That now on the S. side is a copy of the original opening and is not in the proper position. Bolt-holes remain.

One of two, see under III.

Splay towards the E.; has a modern shutter

Rebuilt probably in new positions.

Splay towards the W.

In the S. wall of the nave.

In the wall of the N. aisle.

Upper hinge-hook remains.

Church rebuilt.

Two lights.



## CLASSIFIED LIST, WITH SUMMARY OF DIMENSIONS, &amp;c.—Continued.

## III.

## LOW-SILLED LANCETS.

## (a) Transomed.

(The dimensions are those of the rectangular lower part.)

	Position.	Height.	Width.	Height above floor.	Height above ground, or base mould. #	Distance from chancel wall.	Direction of village, or population.	
1 Barton-on-Heath ...	N.	26	12½	30	15	36	N. & E.	Splay E.
2 Brinklow ...	S.	34	16	42(?)	40	7	S.W. & N.	
3 Budbroke* ...	S.	33	17½	—	17½	40	S.	*Possibly I. (a).
4 Cubbington ...	S.	—	—	—	—	—	S., S.W., N.	See also Class I. (a).
5 Morton Bagot ...	S.	32	15	—	45*	22	S.W.	
6 Whitnash ...	S.	34	17½	18	20*	25	N., S., W.	

## (b) Not Transomed.

7 Great Alne ...	S.	48½	11	37	36	12	E. & N.	Splay uneven and towards the E.; upper [hinge-hook remains.
8 Brownsover ...	S.	43	11½	23	—	9	W.	
9 Exhall (Coventry) ...	S.	—	—	—	60	—	—	
10 Haselor ...	N.	51	15	(29)	—	8	S.W., N.E.	
11 Norton Lindsay ...	S.	10-11	7½	32	37*	42½	N.W.	
12 Packwood ...	S.	51½	13½	34	31*	20	All sides.	{ Retains hinge-hooks. Has been removed from original position.
" ...	N.	51½	13½	—	—	—		
13 Ryton-on-Dunsmore ...	N.	64	8½	37	32	36	N., S.	Splay uneven and towards the W.
" ...	S.	68	17	24	—	27		
14 Shilton ...	S.	—	10½	36	29?	27	N., S., E.	
15 Shustoke ...	S.	64	20½	42	40	7½	S. & W.	
16 Stretton-on-Dunsmore ...	S.	—	—	—	—	—	N.	Church rebuilt.
17 Studley ...	S.	—	18	—	—	16	W.	
18 Over Whitacre ...	S.	—	—	—	—	—	S.	Church rebuilt.
19 Wishaw ...	S.	66	11	32	54	21	N.	
20 Whatcote ...	S.	48	15	51?	—	15	N. & E.	
" ...	N.	52	14½	44	—	—		
21 Wolverton ...	S.	48	18	60?	37*	40	N., S.	
" ...	N.	48	18	—	35*	24		

## IV.

## Ladbroke Type.

1 Ladbroke ..	N.	31	16	20	10*	26	E.	
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## V.

## LOW-SILLED TWO OR THREE-LIGHT WINDOWS.

## (a) Transomed.

1 Temple Balsall ...	S.	54	25	34	60*	—	(S. & E.)	
2 Bulkington ...	S.	16½	18½	32	—	—	S.	
3 Burton Dassett ...	S.	36	18	24	22*	36	—	

## (b) Not Transomed.

1 Aston, j. Birmingham ...	S.	—	—	—	—	—	—	Chancel rebuilt
2 Churchover ...	S.?	—	—	—	—	—	N., S., E.	Church rebuilt.
3 Curdworth ...	S.	—	—	—	—	—	E., S.	Window rebuilt.
4 Lea Marston ...	S.	—	—	—	—	—	N.	Church rebuilt.
5 Ratley ...	N.	—	12	38	46	45	N.	
6 Rowington ...	S.	35	12	39	—	12	N., S., W.	
7 Shotteswell ...	S.	33	12½	30	23*	34	E., N., W.	
8 Sutton-u-Brailes ...	S.	55	13	43	50	13	S. & E.	
9 Weston-u-Weatherly ...	S.	16	16½	—	32	18	E., S.	
10 Warmington ...	S.	—	—	46	25*	—	N.	
" ...	N.	—	—	46	—	—		

## VI.

## Wixford Type.

1 Wixford ...	N.	21½	{ 4½ 3½ }	44	33*	—	S.	
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**Class I.—Independent Openings.***Division A.—Large Rectangular : 13 Churches ; 16 Examples.***1.—ASHOW.**

Two openings, both blocked and visible on the exterior only. *South side* : rectangular 44in.  $\times$  18½in. Height of sill from ground about 30in. ; distance of Western jamb from termination of chancel wall, 18in. Mould, a simple chamfer. *North side* : rectangular but smaller, viz., 31in.  $\times$  10in. Distance of Western jamb from West end of chancel wall, 12in. Height of sill above ground, 22in. Mould, as on South side. The existing village lies North and West of the church ; the Avon bounds the churchyard on the South, but there is some population across the river.

**2.—BAGINTON (Pl. II, fig. 2).**

On the South side is a rectangular opening 29½in.  $\times$  9in., 12in. from the West end of the chancel wall, 11½in. from the priests' door, 29in. from existing ground level. There are bars and the window is glazed. Internally there is a slope downwards to a flat sill 8½in. deep, 24½in. above the floor. The sides are cemented and there are no traces of hinges, &c. Mould, a simple chamfer. The window from its rude construction presents a marked contrast to the elegant late 13th century doorway, by the side of which it was constructed. The existing houses lie to the South and East of the Church.

**3.—BUBBENHALL.**

The church has been largely rebuilt, especially the interior part, but the chancel seems to be in its original condition. On the South side are three lancets, and on the North two placed alternately with them. The low side window is situated unsymmetrically below the Western-most of the Southern lancets. It is 36in.  $\times$  25in., its sill 20in. above the ground level and rather less above the floor. The Western jamb, which is 9in. from the end of the chancel wall, is in the same straight line as that of the window above, but its Eastern jamb is about 12in. to the West of that of the window. The mould is a plain chamfer. The general appearance of the window points to its being later than the lancet above, but this idea is to some extent negated—(i), by the relative positions of the Northern and Southern lancets noted above, and (ii), by the fact that a moulding which runs round the edge of the interior splay of all the lancets is, in the case of the Western-most one on the South side, continued to the ground along the edge of the splay of the low side window.

The population lies to the South and East of the church.

**4.—CHILVERS COTON.**

Mr. Cossins<sup>(1)</sup> informs me that on the North side there was a small, square, blocked

(1) I am greatly indebted to Mr. Cossins for information with regard to the previous existence of low side windows in churches which have been rebuilt during the last 50 years, and for his kindness in looking through my list of examples.



low side window lying immediately beneath the Western light of a 14th century two-light window. The church has now been rebuilt and on the South side, symmetrically placed under the sill of a two-light window (so that the centre line of the mullion of the window passes through the centre of the opening), is a rectangular blocked opening, 19in.  $\times$  14½in., whose sill is 7in. above the chancel floor. So far as its dimensions are concerned it is probably a copy of the original low side window, but why it should have been moved to the South side and placed East of the priests door, in such an unusual position with regard to the window above, is rather difficult to understand.

The population lies to the North of the church.

#### 5.—CHURCH LAWFORD.

This church has been almost entirely rebuilt, but two lancets and a low side window on the North side of the chancel are ancient. The low side window, which is now situated immediately below a lancet, but unconnected with it, is rectangular and 23in.  $\times$  11in. The external sill is 38in. above the basement mould and the Western jamb 35in. from the termination of the chancel wall. Internally the sill is 15in. deep, 33in. above the floor and 9in. below the external sill. The Western jamb is 30in. from the chancel arch. There is a rebate for a shutter and there are bolt holes on either side 12in. above the base of the opening.

The village lies to the West and North-West of the church.

#### 6.—CUBBINGTON.

On the North side was<sup>(1)</sup> a low side window "of poor perpendicular work, evidently an insertion." This seems to have been removed when the organ chamber was erected. For the Southern opening *vide* p. 87.

#### 7.—DUNCHURCH.

The priests door is on the *North side* of the chancel and opposite the vicarage ; to the West of it is a low side opening 28½in.  $\times$  11½in. Mould, a simple chamfer. Distance of the end of the chancel wall from the Western jamb, 27in. The flat internal sill is 23½in. deep and its height from the floor, 46in., but there is some evidence (a straight joint externally) that it has been raised by about 10in.

On the *South side* is a similar opening, but larger, the dimensions being 50in.  $\times$  12in. ; its distance from the West end of the chancel wall is about 36in. Here also the sill seems to have been raised, though the evidence is not quite so strong as in the case of the Northern opening. The village lies mainly to the South and South-West of the church, but there is a fair number of houses to the North.

#### 8.—FARNBOROUGH.

On the South side, 8in. below a two-light 14th century window, but independent of it and 7in. further to the West, is a blocked opening 28¾in.  $\times$  14in. Mould

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(1) Parker. *Arch. Journ.*, IV., 317.



a simple chamfer. Height of sill above existing ground level, 34in.; distance of Western jamb from the end of chancel wall 34in. also. Entirely blocked internally. The existing village lies to the North of the church.

9.—HASELEY.

In the South chancel wall of this quaint little church is a square headed window, the lintel of which seems to have been recently raised; the appearance of the masonry suggests that the sill was at one time lower, and formed the base of a low side opening. There is no village.

10.—HUNNINGHAM.

In this little church are two low side windows, both blocked. The *Northern* one is now within a vestry. The *Southern* is 30in.  $\times$  15in., its height above the base-mould 14in. and distance from the end of the chancel wall 17in. The moulding is of three orders, a quarter-round sunk chamfer followed inwards by two rectangular moulds. The Northern window has the same dimensions. The houses are chiefly on the South and East of the church, but there is some population not far off to the North.

11.—KINGSBURY.

On the South side, below and to the West of the sill of a 14th-century three-light window is a blocked rectangular opening of which only the Western jamb remains—this is 4in. from the termination of the chancel wall. The opening, allowing for the missing jamb, sill, &c., would appear to have been about 21in.  $\times$  16in. The base is level with the present ground surface but is 26in. above the floor within. The village lies to the East of the church, but the parish is a very large one and there is a scattered population on all sides.

12.—NEWTON REGIS (Pl. II., fig 1).

On the South side is an opening 28½in.  $\times$  12½in., with a plain chamfered edge. The sill is 12in. above the basement mould, and the Western jamb 13in. from the end of the chancel wall. It is blocked by a stone slab, and interiorly the opening widens to 47in.  $\times$  31in. The sill slopes and at the wall face is 11in. above the existing floor. The splay is uneven and towards the West. The village lies to the South-West of the church.

13.—WYKEN.

On the South side of the church is a rudely constructed blocked opening, 30½in.  $\times$  21in. The sill is 38in. above the ground level, and the Western jamb 36in. from the termination of the chancel wall. The population, which is small and scattered, lies almost entirely to the South of the church.



*Division B.—Small Rectangular : 5 Churches ; 6 Examples.*

14.—BICKENHILL.

On the South side was a lancet of the 13th century, having immediately below it a rather narrow rectangular opening.—This was destroyed at the rebuilding of the South wall in 1853, but a sketch made by Mr. Cossins in 1852 is engraved in our Transactions for the year 1887, Pl. III., p. 30. From this I have worked out that the opening was about 17in.  $\times$  7in. ; its sill 50in. above the floor ; and its Western jamb 30in. from the termination of the chancel wall. The village lies to the South of the church.

15.—CALDECOTE.

This church has been almost entirely rebuilt, yet it may, I think, be assumed that the Southern low side window has been replaced in its original position ; but the window above it being new, its relation, if any, to the original fenestration is lost. It is a small opening, 15in.  $\times$  7½in. Mould, a plain chamfer. The height of the sill from the basement mould is 8in., and the distance of the Western jamb from the end of the chancel wall, 48in. There was also an opening on the North side of the chancel : this has been removed to the North wall of the organ chamber. It is rather larger than the South one, viz., 18in.  $\times$  10½in. Both openings are blocked and untraceable internally. The present population is small and lies to the South-East of the church.

16.—LILLINGTON (Pl. VI., fig 1).

In the South wall of the chancel, immediately below a 14th century lancet and separated from it by a transome which seems to have been cut out of its sill, is a small opening 17½in.  $\times$  10½in.—blocked, and untraceable internally. The sill is about 36in. from the ground, and the Western jamb 24in. from the termination of the chancel wall. The walling immediately to the East of the lancet and low side opening has been disturbed by the building of a post-gothic priests doorway, now blocked ; still further to the East the walling seems to be 13th century. The lancet is wider than the low side opening by about 6in. ; the Western jamb of the latter is in a straight line with that of the former (*vide*, fig.).

Lillington is now a suburb of Leamington ; the mediæval population probably lay to the South and East of the church.

17.—SHELDON (Pl. I., fig. 2).

This remarkable example is on the South side of the chancel, which has been rebuilt, but the single slab of stone in which the opening is cut is ancient, and one may assume that it occupies its original position. The portion of the slab visible externally is 8½in.  $\times$  8in., and the hole cut in it 4¾in.  $\times$  2¾in. The lowest part of



the slab is 30in. above the base mould, and the Western-most part 22in. from the West end of the chancel wall. Internally, the part of the slab visible is  $12\frac{1}{2}$ in.  $\times$  12in. and the opening containing it widens out with a very slight splay to 17in.  $\times$  20in. The internal sill is 34in. above the floor and 18in. deep. The houses near the church are to the North, but there is a considerable population to the South.<sup>(1)</sup>

#### 18.—STOCKTON.

On the North side, built into the North wall of a modern organ chamber, and evidently removed from the chancel wall when the building was constructed, is a blocked rectangular opening 14in.  $\times$  14in., with a plain chamfer; the sides seem ancient, but the top mould is cut out of the base of the sill of the modern window above. Distance from the end of the chancel wall, 27in.; height of sill (? ancient) above floor,  $19\frac{1}{2}$ in. The population lies to the North and West of the church.

#### *Division C.—Independent Lancets: 19 Churches; 21 Examples.*

#### 19.—ANSLEY.

Here there were almost certainly two openings but only that on the South is visible externally, the North wall being cemented where the low side window should be seen. That on the South side is a blocked foliated lancet of the 14th century. The existing opening is 35in.  $\times$  12in., and its sill, which is of cement, is about 4ft. above the floor, but there are indications that it was at one time 15 to 18in. lower. Its Western jamb is 23in. from the termination of the chancel wall. Internally the splay is narrow and slightly towards the East, but no view of the altar would have been possible. Only the upper 15in. of the opening is seen, the lower part being concealed by panelling. On the North side the upper 17in. of a blocked opening, 14in. wide, is visible. The splay is even and is greater than that of the South opening. The village lies on both sides of the church.

#### 20.—BAXTERLEY (Pl. II. fig 3).

On the South side is a wide rudely formed lancet with no mould or chamfer, the arch is cut out of a single block of stone. Dimensions, 50in.  $\times$  18in. Height of sill above floor about 36in., depth 20in.; distance of Western jamb from the end of the chancel wall, 18in. To the East and near to it is a very narrow 13th century lancet, whose sill is  $5\frac{1}{2}$ ft. from the floor. Interiorly the opening is widely splayed towards the East and but slightly to the West. There are bars, and a wooden door opening inwards, but this and its fittings are modern. The church lies very close to the Southern boundary of the parish, and there could hardly at any time have been much population on that side of the church.

(1) For a photograph of this opening and a comparison with the circular Danish low side openings of similar dimensions *vide* Boyson, *Archaeol. Journal* LXIII., 20.



21.—BURTON HASTINGS (Pl. IV., fig. 4).

On the South side is a rectangular opening filled by a cusped ogee arched lancet with sunk spandrils. It appears to be of the same date as a late 14th century window in the same wall. The lower part is blocked, and the sill raised, so that it is not possible to state whether the whole of the opening was originally shuttered, or only the blocked part. The mould is of two orders, each a plain chamfer. The width is  $17\frac{1}{2}$  in. and the original height probably about 52 in. The distance of the Western jamb from the end of the chancel wall, 15 in. Internally the splay is slight, and the height of the original sill above the floor about 36 in. The village lies to the East of the church and there are a few scattered houses to the South and South-West.

22.—FRANKTON.

This church was rebuilt in 1872 by Sir G. Scott. Two low side windows, almost entirely ancient, are inserted high up—about 5 ft. from the existing ground level. They are ogee headed and have a  $\frac{1}{4}$  round hollow chamfer. That on the North side is 34 in.  $\times$  14 in., and it is  $11\frac{1}{2}$  in. from the West end of the chancel wall. On the South side the opening is similar in shape but is 36 in.  $\times$   $15\frac{1}{4}$  in., and  $12\frac{1}{2}$  in. from the West end of the chancel wall. The main part of the population lies to the North-East and South West of the church.

23.—LONG COMPTON.

On the South side, prior to the "restoration" of 1863, there was a low side window, which the late Mr. Parker describes as follows<sup>(1)</sup>:—"On the South side of the chancel is a recess in the wall with a trefoil head, and in the back of it are two small square openings side by side, with a sort of solid mullion between." The wall has, however, been rebuilt and there is now no trace of the opening, except interiorly, where may be seen a trefoil headed recess 32 in. wide at the back, the sill 36 in. from the floor. The village lies almost entirely to the South. There is a sanctus bell cot.

24.—HARBURY.

The church has been largely rebuilt but the South chancel wall does not seem to have been pulled down, and the low side window is therefore in its original position. It is a lancet  $46\frac{1}{2}$  in.  $\times$   $14\frac{1}{2}$  in. Mould, a plain chamfer. The lower part is blocked, but the sill below the glazing is modern and there is no evidence to fix the position of the original transome, if there was one. The blocked part is  $14\frac{1}{2}$  in.  $\times$  12 in., and its sill is 36 in. from the floor level. The splay is even, but the window is set to the West side of the internal rectangular opening. The Western jamb is 18 in. from the end of the chancel wall. The village lies almost entirely on the South and South-West of the church but there are a few houses on the North and East.

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(1) *Archaeol. Journ.*, IV., p. 317.



## 25.—IDLICOTE.

In the North wall of the chancel is a small lancet, 30in.  $\times$  10 $\frac{3}{4}$ in., with a hood mould. The lower part is blocked to a height of 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ in., the original sill is about 9in. above the existing ground level, and the Western jamb 15in. from the end of the chancel wall. Internally the splay is uneven and towards the West. The sill is 34in. above the level of the floor. The population lies to the North-East of the church.

## 26.—KENILWORTH.

The church was restored in 1865 and much of the stonework seems new; in the South Wall of the nave, 11in. West of the Transept, is a small lancet shaped low side opening, blocked internally. Its dimensions are 25 $\frac{1}{2}$ in.  $\times$  5 $\frac{3}{4}$ in. Mould, a plain chamfer; the sill is 17in. from the basement string course or 32in. from the ground level. The town lies to the North of the church, but the Priory was immediately to the South.

## 27.—LEAMINGTON HASTINGS.

In the North aisle is a small 14th century ogee headed lancet. The opening is trefoil headed, 24 $\frac{1}{2}$ in.  $\times$  about 14in., and the sill about 36in. above the basement mould. The flat internal sill, which is 19in. deep, is 42in. above the present floor level, but there would have been an altar in the aisle and the floor would originally have been higher. The population lies to the North and East of the church.

## 28.—MAXSTOKE.

The church is a small rectangular building. In the South wall is an ogee headed, foliated lancet shaped opening, blocked comparatively recently<sup>(1)</sup> with blue brick, and now untraceable internally. Its dimensions are 45in.  $\times$  13in., and the sill is 36in. above the ground. The population is scattered and lies on all sides of the church, but there are very few houses to the South.

## 29.—OFFCHURCH.

On the South side is an early 14th century window with a shouldered (Carnarvon) arch. The opening is 33in.  $\times$  10 $\frac{3}{4}$ in., and has a hollow  $\frac{1}{4}$ -round chamfer. The sill is 14in. from the existing ground level, but there is evidence that the original level was 21in. lower. The Western jamb is 16in. from the termination of the chancel wall. There is a broad internal splay, the opening widening to 50in  $\times$  33 $\frac{1}{2}$ in. The sill is flat, 15 $\frac{1}{2}$ in. deep, and 28 $\frac{1}{2}$ in. above the floor. The houses lie on all sides of the church but the West.

## 30.—OXHILL (Pl. III., fig. 1, 2).

This very interesting example of 14th century date lies on the North side of the church. It has a modern shutter opening internally, but the hinges of the original

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(1) Because "boys used to throw stones through it into the church" (Rector).



shutter remain (fig. 2), and show that it opened externally. Whether secured from within or without there is no evidence to prove. Externally the opening is almost rectangular, the top having, as may be seen from the figure, a very slight curve. Within this is a rude trefoil head. The dimensions are 29in.  $\times$  12in., and the height of the sill from the base-mould, 39in; the distance of the Western jamb from the termination of the chancel wall being about 22in. Internally the opening is splayed so that the dimensions are 44½in.  $\times$  30½in. The sill slopes, and its outer edge is 37in. from the floor. Part of the flattened upper arch and the Eastern jamb are cut out of the stones forming the inner splay of a Norman window lying to the East. No bolt hole is traceable. The village lies entirely to the North of the church.



31.—PILLERTON HERSEY (Pl. III., fig. 3).

This is, so far as I know, a unique contemporaneous example of early 14th century work. It lies on the South close to the West side of the priests door, and its Eastern jamb is the West side of the Western jamb of this doorway and formed of the same stones. It is lancet shaped, 37½in.  $\times$  10½in., and has a hollow half-round mould. The sill is 31in. above the ground level, and about 20in. above the floor. Internally it is blocked, being covered with uniform walling. The Western jamb is about 14in. from the termination of the chancel wall. The population lies entirely to the South and East of the church.

32.—SECKINGTON (Pl. I., fig. 1).

On the South side is an ogee arched 14th century opening inserted, as are the other 14th century chancel windows, in a 13th century wall. Its dimensions are 40in.  $\times$  11in. The mould is a simple chamfer, and the sill is 26in. above the base mould, the Western jamb being 9in. from the end of the chancel wall. Internally there is a hinge on the East jamb, 29in. above the bottom of the opening (*vide*, fig.). The sill slopes, and at the wall face is 14in. above the existing floor. The village lies entirely to the South and East of the church.

33.—SHERBORNE.

This church was rebuilt in 1864, but the drawing in the Aylesford Collection shows what I think must be a low side window on the North side of the chancel. The village lies entirely to the North of the church.

34.—UFTON.

On both sides of the chancel there are blocked openings consisting of 14th century cusped lancets, having chamfered jambs with a half-round hollow mould. On the *South* side the base of the opening is 31in. above the ground, but the sill slopes steeply and terminates about 8in. lower. The dimensions of the opening are 39in.  $\times$  12½in., and the Western jamb is nearly 4ft. from the termination of the chancel wall. Within is a splayed rectangular opening, 51in.  $\times$  17in., with a flat sill 21in.



above the floor, and 18½ in. deep. The *Northern* opening is similar in form, size, and relative position. The village lies on both sides of the church.

### 35.—WHICHFORD (Pl. iv., fig. 1, Pl. x.).

On the South side, apparently contemporaneous with the priests' door and a 14th century two light window, is a lancet shaped opening, 30 in. × 11 in.; the sill is 36 in. from the ground, and the Western jamb 16 in. from the termination of the chancel wall. There is a hood mould, and the mould of the arch and jamb is a plain chamfer, rebated close to the narrowest part so as to form a recess for a shutter 13¼ in. wide. Internally there is a slope from the base of the opening, ending in a sill 16½ in. deep, and 36 in. above the floor. The arch and sides are plastered over. The population is mainly on the East side of the church, but there are houses both to the North and South. There is a sanctus bell cot.

### 36.—WHITCHURCH.

On the South side, below the sill of the Western-most of two large square headed perpendicular windows, is a blocked opening, which has apparently been lancet shaped, but the arch and jambs have been removed and the masonry with which the opening was closed is flush with the general wall surface. The opening was probably about 16 in. × 10 in., the Western jamb 36 in. from the end of the chancel wall, and the sill 34 in. above the base mould. [The blocking masonry is 22 in. × 18 in.]. There is a collection of houses in the North-West corner of the parish, but the parish as a whole lies to the South of the church.

### 37.—WOLSTON.

On the South side is a two light window with its sill 20 in. above the basement mould. The stone work is entirely new, but the way in which the string course is deviated upwards to avoid it, shows that it occupies the position of an ancient opening. The village lies to the South-West of the church.

**Class II.—Those which lie symmetrically placed, (a) below a lancet, or (b) below one light of a two or three light window, are apparently of the same date as the window above, but separated from it by a vertical space.**

#### *Division A.—Below a Lancet: 1 Example.*

##### 1.—SALFORD PRIORS (Pl. v., fig. 1., and Pl. x.).

Small rectangular openings, alike in every respect, originally occurred on both sides of the chancel, but that on the South side was removed when the organ chamber was built, and inserted in its wall. The following description of the *Northern* opening applies also to the Southern one as formerly placed.—The opening is of the 13th century



and has the same mouldings as that of the lancet above it ; from this it is separated, not by a transome, but (*vide* Pl. X., vertical section) by some 40in. of walling, which includes a string course. It is of small dimensions, viz.,  $24\frac{1}{2}$ in.  $\times$   $6\frac{1}{2}$ in., widening to 48in.  $\times$  34in. at the external wall face, where the sill is 23in. above the base mould ; the Western jamb is 75in. from the termination of the chancel wall, which projects to the North beyond that of the nave (see fig.). Internally the opening widens to 38in.  $\times$   $28\frac{1}{2}$ in. There is a flat sill  $9\frac{1}{2}$ in. deep,  $28\frac{1}{2}$ in. above the floor. The village lies to the immediate North of the church ; Abbots Salford, which is a part of the parish, is  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile to the S.S.W.

*Division B.—Below one light of a two or three light window.*

3 Churches ; 4 Examples.

2.—BILTON (Pl. v., fig. 2).

In the South wall of this church, till lately concealed by rose bushes, is an interesting 14th century example. The opening, which is blocked, is rectangular, 20in.  $\times$  18in. The mould is a plain chamfer, but there is a hood-mould, the horizontal part of which is continuous with the string course beneath the sill of a three light 14th century window.<sup>(1)</sup> The vertical returns are terminated by corbel-head "stops." This is the only instance I have met with in the county of such an elaborate hood mould to a low side window. The opening has every appearance of having been an original feature of the building and not an insertion. The sill is 34in. above the base mould and about 41in. above the floor within. Internally there is no sign of the opening.

The existing village lies to the South-West of the church.

3.—COLESHILL.

The chancel has been rebuilt, but the present blocked low side openings on the South and North sides are, I believe, reproductions of those which Mr. Cossins informs me existed before the rebuilding.

On the *South side*, beneath a five light perpendicular window, is a square headed blocked opening, 38in.  $\times$  28in., divided into two cusped lancets, each 12in. wide. The Western jamb is in the same straight line as that of the window above, but the lights of that window being 18in. wide, the low side opening is not symmetrically placed below it. Vertically it is separated from the window by about 16in. of masonry. The sill is 33in. above the basement mould, and the Western jamb 11in. from the end of the chancel wall.

On the *North side* the opening is similar in every respect. The houses lie on all sides of the church but the East.

(1) The lower parts of all the lights of this window are blocked to a height of about 18in., and cut off from the glazed parts by stone transomes (see fig.) : this is, however, not an original feature, but an alteration which seems to have been made when the chancel was panelled.



## 4.—GRANDBOROUGH.

On the South side is an interesting example of the 14th century, contemporaneous with a three light window above it. It is a blocked rectangular opening,  $23\frac{1}{2}$  in.  $\times$   $17\frac{3}{4}$  in., lying immediately below the Western-most light of the window above, the lower part of the sill of which forms its lintel; the vertical distance between the two windows being about 16 in. The lintel and sill have a plain chamfer, the jambs a plain chamfer divided into two parts by a rectangular hollow mould. The sill is 26 in. from the existing ground level, and the Western jamb 27 in. from the end of the chancel wall. The village lies entirely to the South-West of the church.

**Class III.—Lancets, generally low silled, belonging to an existing or former general scheme of fenestration.**

*Division A.—Those in which the low side opening is divided off by a transome.*

*6 Churches : 6 Examples.*

## 1.—BARTON-ON-HEATH.

On the North side is a foliated lancet of the 14th century. The lower half is blocked, the sill having been removed. The existing sill is modern; if it occupies the position of the transome originally dividing the glazed window from the low side opening, the dimensions of the latter were 26 in.  $\times$   $12\frac{1}{2}$  in. The ancient sill was 30 in. above the chancel floor, and the Western jamb is 36 in. from the end of the chancel wall. The splay is large and uneven, being wider towards the East. The existing village lies to the East and North of the church.

## 2.—BRINKLOW (Pl. IV., fig. 2).

On the South side is a 13th century lancet, the lower part of which is divided off by a stone transome. The opening, which 50 years ago had a grating, is glazed, and is 34 in.  $\times$  16 in. The Western jamb is 7 in. from the end of the chancel wall. The sill is 61 inches above the present level of the chancel floor. But there is evidence from the construction of the jambs of the priests' door and from its elongated dimensions (*vid: fig.*) that the floor was originally at least 18 in. higher. The greater part of the village lies to the South-West of the church, but there is a portion to the North.

## 3.—BUDBROKE (Pl. IV., fig. 3).

In the South wall of the chancel are three 13th century lancets, one of which is concealed by a buttress. Below the Western-most of these is a blocked rectangular opening, 33 in.  $\times$   $17\frac{1}{2}$ , rudely constructed; mould a plain chamfer. As may be seen in the illustration the head cuts through the string course which runs below the sills of the lancets, and the cut edges have been very roughly trimmed. The sill is  $17\frac{1}{2}$  in.



above the ground, and the Western jamb 40in. from the end of the chancel wall. Internally there are no signs of the opening. The main part of the population of the parish, which includes the hamlet of Hampton-on-the-Hill, lies to the South of the church.

This is a striking instance of a low side opening roughly, and apparently therefore, hurriedly made. It suggests that an occasion had arisen that required the provision of a low side window without delay.

[This example might perhaps be more properly included in Class Ia.]

#### 4.—CUBBINGTON (S.).

On the South side, now within a choir vestry built against the side of the chancel, is an elegant early 14th century doubly cusped lancet, 56in. × 14in. This window is 24in. from the West end of the chancel wall, and the space below it is covered with match boarding about 6ft. high, against which hang the choir surplices. The late Mr. Parker states that the low side window here "is a single light with a cinquefoil head about 3ft. 6in. high by 1ft. 6in. wide."<sup>(1)</sup> This must be either the lower part of the above-described lancet or another opening, in either case it is concealed by the match-boarding. Internally there is no trace of it. [For the Northern low side window see page 77]. The major part of this village lies to the South and South-West of the church, but there are some houses on the North.

#### 5.—MORTON BAGOT.

This picturesque little church furnishes a very interesting example of a lancet which, except for its position at the West end of the South chancel wall, shows no evidence of its having at one time contained a low side opening. This single lancet has a sill which is only slightly lower than that of the double one lying to the East on the same side. Cement within and without has removed all traces of the former existence of a transome and of any other evidence of lychnoscopic use. In *The Churches of Warwickshire*, (1837), vol. I., p. 165, is, however, an engraving which shows the lower part separated from the upper by a transome and blocked by masonry. In a general view of the church (p. 162) the sill appears no lower than at present, viz. 45in. above the base mould. The width of the opening is 15in., and the height (calculated) 32in. The distance from the Western termination of the chancel wall is 22in. The transome seems to have been added after the construction of the window, which is of early 14th century type. The existence of this low side window indicates that a lancet may have contained a low side opening, transomed off, although its sill is not at a lower level than those of the adjacent windows. The population, which is scattered, lies almost entirely to the South-West of the church.

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(1) *Archaeol. Journ.*, iv., 317.



## 6.—WHITNASH.

This church, with the exception of the tower, was entirely re-built in 1856. The chancel, however, was re-constructed with the same stones, which are believed to have been re-laid in their original positions; but this is probably not the case, because certain "dial-marks" are now high up and in inaccessible positions, which is hardly likely to have been the case originally. On the South side of the chancel are three lancets, of which the Eastern-most is a very narrow 13th century window, without a hood mould; the remaining two are of early 14th century type, and are alike save that the Western-most has a low sill and contains a low side opening cut off from the rest of the window by a stone transome. The transome (which may be new) and the sides of the window below the level of the sill of the adjoining window are of red sandstone, whereas the rest of the stonework of the chancel is white. This red stone was used by the Monks of Kenilworth for the windows of their churches, and they possessed the advowson of Whitnash from 1300 to 1492. The opening is 34in.  $\times$  17½in., the sill is 20in. above the basement mould, and the Western jamb about 25in. from the end of the chancel wall. The mould is a plain chamfer. Internally there is a slight slope leading to a flat sill 9½in. deep, which is 18in. above the floor. Below the transome the opening is rebated for a door or frame. It is to be noted, however, that much of the interior stonework may be new. The village lies on all sides of the church except the East.

*Division B.—Not transomed. In some cases the transome may have been removed; in others there may have been a wooden frame in the lower part of the window; in yet a third class the whole window may have been shuttered; but it has seldom been possible to decide the nature of the mediæval arrangement.*

15 Churches: 18 Examples.

## 7.—GREAT ALNE.

On the South side of this quaint little church is a simple lancet, 48½in.  $\times$  11in., mould a plain chamfer. The sill is 36in. from the ground, and the Western jamb 12in. from the termination of the chancel wall. Internally the sill is 29½in. deep, cemented, 3½in. above the external sill, and 37in. from the floor; the splay is uneven and towards the East. The extreme North end of the altar-rail can just be seen. The upper hinge-hook remains on the West side, 34½in. above the sill, but the sides are plastered right up to the glass, so that no rebate is visible. The population lies to the East and North of the church.

## 8.—BROWNSOVER.

This church has been almost re-built, but the South chancel wall appears to have been repaired only. The low side window is a lancet, 11¾in. wide, 43in. high, with



a flat sill, 19in. deep, 23in. above the floor level. It is 9in. from the termination of the chancel wall. The population is small and scattered. The houses near are on the West of the church.

9.—EXHALL (NR. COVENTRY).

On the South side near to the West end of the chancel wall is an original 13th century lancet, with a plain chamfer and no hood-mould. The present sill is about 5ft. from the ground, but there is some evidence that it has been raised more than a foot. There is no village.

10.—HASELOR.

High up in the South wall of the chancel is a 14th century cusped lancet, 51in.  $\times$  15in. The present height of the sill above the floor is 88in., but the disposition of the masonry below clearly shows its original situation, viz., with its sill 29in. above floor level, and its Western jamb 8in. from the termination of the chancel wall. The window seems to have been raised when the wall was panelled. The village consists of two clusters of houses lying respectively to the South-West and North-East of the church.

11.—NORTON LINDSAY (Pl. VI. fig. 2).

On the South side is a narrow 13th century lancet, with its sill much lower than that of the other lancet on the same side. There are indications of the previous existence of a stone transome, of a hinge-hole on the Eastern jamb, and of bar-holes at the bottom. The width of the window is  $7\frac{1}{2}$ in., and the apparent height of the opening 10—11in. The sill is 37in. from the basement mould, and the Western jamb  $42\frac{1}{2}$ in. from the termination of the chancel wall. Internally the sill slopes slightly, and at the wall face is 32in. above the floor. On the East side are indications of a bolt-hole. The village lies to the North-West of the church.

12.—PACKWOOD (Pl. VI., fig. 4).

There was originally a low side window on each side of the chancel. That *on the North*, which resembled that on the South in form and relative position, was moved a few years ago when the organ chamber was built, and was placed on the East side of that structure.

The windows are 14th century cusped lancets, mould a plain chamfer. Dimensions  $51\frac{1}{2} \times 13\frac{1}{4}$ . The sills are new in both cases. *The South opening* is 31in. above the basement-mould, and its Western jamb 20in. from the termination of the chancel wall. Internally there is a flat sill, 17in. deep, which is ancient, and the opening widens to 60in.  $\times$   $38\frac{1}{2}$ in. On the West side,  $11\frac{1}{2}$ in. and 35in. respectively above the sill, are two stout iron hinges (see fig.), and on the East side, 24in. above the same level, a bolt-hole. The sill is 34in. above the floor.

There are no traces of hinge-holes in the jambs of the re-built *North window* but there seems to be a bolt-hole filled with cement in the place where one would



expect to find it. The old houses, which are scattered, lie on all sides of the church, including the South, although on that side a tongue of the parish of Lapworth almost touches the boundary of the churchyard.

This is an example of a lancet having a sill not lower than those of the adjacent fenestration and yet unmistakably serving as a low side opening throughout its entire length. We may fairly conclude, therefore, that in other cases lancets may have been low side windows even though their sills are not relatively *low*, provided they are placed in the usual position near to the Western termination of the chancel-wall.

### 13.—RYTON-ON-DUNSMORE.

On the *North side*, inserted in the 12th century walling is a long and narrow low silled lancet, 64in.  $\times$  8½in. Externally the mould is a simple chamfer, and the sill is about a foot below that of the other window on the same side, and the Western jamb about 3ft. from the end of the chancel wall. Internally the splay is slightly to the East, and is very wide, the width at the wall surface being 56in. The sill slopes for some distance, but terminates in a horizontal portion 8in. deep, which is 37in. from the chancel floor, this not now being raised above that of the nave.

On the *South side* is a two-light square-headed window, whose sill is 36in. from the ground, and Western jamb 27in. from the end of the chancel wall. Internally the lower part of the central shaft has been renewed, and there are no traces of low side use, but the splay, which is slight on the East side, is much greater on the West. The sill is about 2ft. from the floor. The lights are 68in.  $\times$  17in. The village lies on all sides of the church except the East.

### 14.—SHILTON.

On the South side is a lancet, 10½in. wide, whose Western jamb is 27in. from the end of the chancel wall. The sill is at present 29in. above the base mould, but there are indications that it has been raised about 12in. The mould consists of two half-rounds and a simple chamfer. Internally there is a vertical drop of 9½in. from the base of the present opening, and there is a flat sill, 20in. deep, 36in. above the floor level. The splay is now even, but there is evidence that it was originally uneven and towards the West. On the North side a somewhat similar window has been entirely re-built with new stones. The village lies on all sides of the church but the West.

### 15.—SHUSTOKE.

The chancel was re-built 1872-3, but the low side window on the South side seems to be principally formed of the original stones re-faced. It is a plain lancet, 64in.  $\times$  20¼in. Internally there is a rebate for a shutter. The sill is 24in. deep and 42in. above the floor; the Western jamb is within 1in. of the chancel arch. Externally the base of the opening is 24in. above the pediment, which is 25in. from the ground, and



the Western jamb is  $7\frac{1}{2}$  in. from the termination of the chancel wall. The population lies to the South and West of the church.

16.—STRETTON-ON-DUNSMORE.

The existing church was built by Rickman in 1835, but the drawing of the ancient church in the Aylesford collection shows a low silled lancet on the South side close to the West end of the wall. The village lies to the North of Rickman's church.

17.—STUDLEY.

On both sides of the chancel are cusped late 14th century lancets, with sills 57 in. above the floor. That on the North side has cemented walling below it; that on the South has new masonry beneath the sill, which may, therefore, have been raised; internally there is no broad sill, and the splay recess is continued to the ground; but this window, I am told, was used as a doorway into a modern vestry removed some twenty years ago (*Vid: fig. Warwickshire Churches*, ii., p. 119). It does not seem certain, therefore, that there was a low side window here, though it is definitely stated (*loc. cit.*, p. 124) that it had that use. The writer, however, while describing all the other windows omits all mention of the North lancet. The population lies principally to the West of the church.

18.—OVER WHITACRE.

The existing church was built in 1706, but in the drawing of the mediæval church in the Aylesford collection, under the Western lancet on the South side of the chancel, is an indication of the presence of a blocked low side opening. The population, which is scattered, lies to the South of the church.

19.—WISHAW (Pl. II., fig. 4).

On the South side is a 14th century cusped lancet, 66 in.  $\times$  11 in.; Western jamb 21 in. from the termination of the chancel wall, and external sill 54 in. from the ground. Internally the sill is 14 in. deep, 32 in. above the floor and 26 in. below the external sill. The Western jamb is  $18\frac{1}{2}$  in. from the chancel arch. Opening on to the Western splay, 10 in. above the sill is the rectangular orifice 17 in.  $\times$  5 in. of a "squint" from the South transept. The Western opening of this squint,<sup>(1)</sup> 19 in.  $\times$  4 in., emerges just to the South of the Eastern respond of the arcade, 36 in. above the floor. There is a blocked lancet of the same dimensions, also with a low flat sill, further to the East on the South side, and another one on the North side, but this is 54 in. from the end of the chancel wall. The nearness of the South lancet to the chancel arch must, I think, be due to its functions as a low side window. The hagioscope could quite as well have been made to emerge on the wall face. The population is sparse and scattered, and lies mostly to the North of the church. There could at no time have been much to the South.

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(1) It is to be noted that, while the squint commands a view of the altar, the low side window does not.



## 20.—WHATCOTE.

On the *South side* is a square-headed window, 48in. × 15in., its Western jamb 15in. from the termination of the chancel wall. Internally the sill is broad and flat, but is high, being 51in. above the floor; there are, however, indications that it has been raised.

On the *North side* is a similar window, 52in. × 14½in., the sill in this case being about 7in. lower. The houses lie principally to the North and East of the church.

## 21.—WOLVERTON.

On both sides of the chancel are 14th century ogee-headed cusped lancets. The dimensions at present are 48in. × 18in., but the sills are rather high—in the case of the Southern window 37in. above the basement mould in that part (it is lower further East), or about 5ft. above the chancel floor. But in both cases there is evidence that the sill has been raised. On the *South side* the masonry has a different appearance down to a depth of 24in. below the present position of the sill, and on the *North side* there is an appearance of a straight joint continuing for 10in. below the base of the sill in its existing position. The parish is a very small one; the few houses there are lie on all sides of the church but the West.

**Class IV.—Those in which one light of a two or three light window has a lower sill than that of the others, and the lower part is divided from the upper by a transome.**

1 Church; 1 Example.

## 1.—LADBROKE (Pl. VII., fig. 1).

On the North side, 26in. from the West end of the chancel wall, is a 13th century double lancet. At a later period, as may be seen internally, the Western light has been continued downwards by cutting through the sill (the mark of which is visible on the West jamb: *vid.* fig.) to form a rectangular opening, 31in. × 16in., which is separated from the window above by a transome. The opening is rebated internally for a shutter. The sill, which is 24in. deep, is 20in. from the floor. The village lies to the East of the church.

**Class V.—Those in which the sill of a two or three light window is at a lower level than those of the adjacent windows.**

*Division A.—The lower parts of all the lights are cut off by transomes.*

3 Churches; 3 Examples.

## 1.—TEMPLE BALSALL (Pl. VI., fig. 3).

On the South side of this church are three large windows with exquisite Geom. tracery. Those lying East and West are of four lights, the middle one has three, the



lower portions of all of them cut off by stone transomes. The external sill is 60in. from the basement mould, about 10in. lower than that of the more Western window. The openings are 54in. x 25in. Internally there is a flat sill 30in. deep, which is 34in. above the floor and 22in. below the level of the external sill. All the openings are stated to have had wooden shutters (Street, *Ecclesiologist* IX., 113). In 1838 they were covered with "modern cement."<sup>(1)</sup> The population of the parish (originally part of Hampton-in-Arden) lies to the South and East of the church.

## 2.—BULKINGTON.

On the South side the lower part of both lights of a two light Dec. window is cut off by a transome, leaving openings, now glazed, 16½in. high x 18¾in. broad; but there is evidence, both externally and internally, that the sill has been at some time raised about 12in. The transomes and mullion are new. The external evidence of the raising of the sill is that the broad string course below the line of the sills of the chancel windows has apparently been cut into, but the part removed has been subsequently replaced, though not in recent times. Internally, about 14in. below the base of the present opening, is a narrow flat sill, which is 32in. above the floor level.

Here the low side opening seems, unlike that of Bilton, to have been an afterthought. The village lies to the South of the church.

## 3.—BURTON DASSETT (Pl. VII., fig. 2, and VIII., fig. 2).

On the South side of the chancel, which Mr. Cossins, in his valuable paper on this church in the *Transactions* of this Society,<sup>(2)</sup> considers to be late 13th or early 14th century, is a two light window. The lower portions of both lights are divided off by transomes, making openings 36in. x 18in. Both are now glazed, but the Western one has "a rebate and hooks for a shutter" (*loc. cit.*, p. 23). The Western jamb is 36in. from the end of the chancel wall, and the base of the opening 22in. above the pediment. Internally the sill slopes and terminates in a horizontal portion 19in. deep, which is 22in. below the base of the opening and 42 to 45in. above the level of the sloping floor. The window seems to be an insertion, for the string course has been cut away to accommodate it, and the basement course abruptly transferred to a level 8in. lower than that under the more Eastern part of the chancel wall. In this case we seem to have a low side window constructed later in the period in an early Dec. wall.

It is not possible to state in what direction the village lay in the 14th century; it was depopulated by the lord of the manor at the end of the following century.

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(1) *Gent. Mag.*, 1838, ii., 268.

(2) 1890—pp. 18—.



*Division B.*—*The lower parts of the lights are not now cut off by transomes; (i) either the transomes have been removed, or (ii) the whole window or one light is or has been rebated for a frame or shutter.*

10 Churches; 11 Examples.

#### 1.—ASTON-JUXTA-BIRMINGHAM.

No part of the ancient chancel remains, but, in the account of the church given by the late Mr. Allen Everitt in the *Transactions* of this Society,<sup>(1)</sup> it is noted that there were then three windows on the South side of the chancel, and that the Western-most of them, of two lights, had a low sill. One of the plates accompanying the paper gives an interior view of part of this window.

#### 2.—CHURCHOVER.

Mr. Cossins tells me that formerly there was "a small two light Dec. window with a low sill close to the end of the South wall" of the chancel. The church has now (1906) been entirely rebuilt.

The village lies on the North-East, East, and South-East of the church.

#### 3.—CURDWORTH.

I am also indebted to Mr. Cossins for the information that the two light window on the South side had originally a low sill. At the present time the sill, which is new, is at the same level as that of the other windows, but the wall below it has obviously been rebuilt.

The village lies to the East and South of the church.

#### 4.—LEA MARSTON.

This church was almost rebuilt in 1876. In the drawing in the Aylesford Collection, a Dec. window of two lights with a low sill is shown on the South side of the chancel.

The village lies to the North of the church.

#### 5.—RATLEY.

This village lies in the South of the county on the Southern slope of the Edgehills. The North side of the chancel contains two 14th century two-light windows, the Western-most of which has its sill 14in. lower than that of the other. There is no other evidence externally<sup>(2)</sup> of its having had a "low side" use. The lancets are 12in. wide, the sill 46in. above the ground, and the Western jamb 45in. from the end of the chancel

(1) 1872—p. 3.

(2) Internally, the mullion has a mould or groove cut on it, but it does not seem certain whether this was intended for ornament, or for use in connection with shutters. If for the first named purpose, its shape is unusual. There is however now no corresponding groove on the jambs.



wall. Internally there is a wide splay increasing the width of the opening from 28in. to 61in. The internal sill slopes, terminating in a horizontal position 19½in. deep, which is 38in. above the floor. The village lies entirely to the North of the church.

6.—ROWINGTON (Pl. IX., figs. 1 and 2, and Pl. X.).

On the South side is a late 14th century square headed two-light window, whose sill is externally some 18in. lower than that of the similar three-light window lying further East, its Western jamb being 12in. from the end of the chancel wall. Internally the lights are each 12in. wide, and the Eastern-most has a groove cut out of the mullion on one side and out of the jamb on the other to a height of 35in. from the sill (*vid.* fig. 2 and Pl. X.), the total height of the lancet openings being 57in. In the mullion is a bolt-hole and at the base of the jamb a hinge hole; the upper hinge hole is not traceable. I think there is no doubt that this groove held a wooden shutter. The internal sill is horizontal, 13in. deep, 10½in. below the external sill, and 39in. above the floor. The village lies to the North-West, but there is a considerable population to the South.

7.—SHOTTESWELL (Pl. VIII., figs. 3 and 4).

On the South side is a square-headed Dec. two-light window; the lower part of each of the lights is blocked to a height of 11in., bringing their sills to the same level as those of the other windows on the same side. The original sill was 30in. above the base mould, and the Western jamb is 34in. from the termination of the chancel wall. The lights are 12in. wide and 62in. high.

Internally the blocking rests on a flat sill which is 30in. above the chancel floor. The jambs, as in the case of Sutton-under-Brailes, are grooved for the reception of a shutter (*vid.* fig. 4), the groove extending to a height of 33in. above the original base of the openings. The mullion has had a portion of its Northern face removed in order to bring it into the plane of the back of the rebates in the jambs.

The North side is covered by a vestry, but there are traces of a blocked opening now concealed by an immovable cupboard.

The population lies on all sides of the church but the South; this side, owing to the nature of the ground and the nearness of the parish boundary, can at no time have been populous.

8.—SUTTON-UNDER-BRAILES.

On the South side of the chancel is a square-headed two-light Dec. window, with a low sill 50in. above the ground. The lights are 13¼ and 12¾in. wide respectively. The Western jamb is 13in. from the end of the chancel floor. Internally the jambs and sill are rebated for the reception of a shutter, the rebate extending upwards 55in., as far as the traceried head, the stonework of which is set back to the level of the back of the rebate; but I think the tracery is not mediæval work. There are no hinge-holes, but the hooks may have been inserted, as in other



cases, in the joints. There is a flat sill, 18in. deep, 43in. above the floor, and 8in. below the base of the opening.

The village lies to the South and East of the church.

#### 9.—WESTON-UNDER-WEATHERLEY.

The Western-most window on the South side of the chancel contains a very interesting example. The window is square-headed and of two lights, each  $54\frac{1}{2}$ in.  $\times$  14in. ; the sill is 32in. from the existing ground level ; and the Western jamb is 18in. from the termination of the chancel wall. The lower part of the Western-most light has been enlarged by cutting away  $2\frac{1}{4}$ in. from the sill, 2in. from the Western jamb, and  $\frac{1}{2}$ in. from the mullion to a height of 16in., thus making an opening 16in.  $\times$   $16\frac{1}{2}$ in. in which it seems likely that a wooden frame was placed.

The bulk of the population lies to the East of the church at some distance, but there are a few houses to the South.

#### 10.—WARMINGTON.

On the *South side* is a Dec. square-headed two-light window, whose sill, 25in. above the basement mould, is 11in. below those of the other windows on the same side, which are Perp. The mullion and tracery are new. Internally there is a flat sill 20in. deep and 46in. above the choir floor.<sup>(1)</sup> The lower parts of the jambs are new, and there is no evidence of arrangements for a low side opening, but taken in conjunction with the two foregoing examples, we may consider the low sill to be strong evidence that there was such an opening. On the *North side* there is a similar window, also with much new stonework ; the sill is the same height above the choir floor, and is 7in. below those of the two other windows on the North side, which are of Dec. date.

The village lies entirely to the North of the church.

### **Class VI.—Those in which two narrow slits are cut side by side in a single slab of stone.**

#### *One Example.*

#### 1.—WIXFORD (Pl. VIII., fig. 1 ; Pl. IX., fig. 3 ; Pl. X.).

This very remarkable example is on the North side of the church, which has been largely re-built. It lies rather to the West of the ceremonial chancel, but there is no external indication of division into nave and chancel. It consists of a single slab of stone,  $36\frac{3}{4}$ in. high, 25in. wide, and  $9\frac{3}{4}$ in. thick. Through this have been cut a pair of lancet openings 22in. high, and  $4\frac{3}{4}$ in. and  $3\frac{1}{2}$ in. wide respectively.<sup>(2)</sup> The jamb moulds are a plain chamfer but the dividing shaft has a curved mould (*vid* : fig. Pl. X.), and the space between the arches of the lancets is filled by a head which projects

(1) This floor is  $6\frac{1}{2}$ in. lower than that of the nave, and 5in. lower than that of the chancel.

(2) The fig. (Pl. IX.) hardly shows how small these openings are.



above the general surface. Both the jambs and the sills are rebated externally as if for a shutter. Internally the sill slopes, and is at its lowest part 44in. above the floor. Externally the lowest part of the opening is 33in. above the basement mould. The splays within are not plane, but slightly curved, and the whole of the workmanship is somewhat rude. There are said to be similar openings at Weekley (Northants) and Landewednack (Cornwall). Such population as there is lies to the South of the church; in fact, the parish boundary runs just North of the North wall.

*The following low silled windows also seem to require some notice.*

#### WITHYBROKE.

On the South side is a 14th century three-light window with tracery of the 15th century. It has a flat internal sill 19in. deep (now cemented) 34in. from the floor, its outer edge recessed from the wall face by 10in. The Western jamb is cut away to a depth of 1in. to a height of 43in. above the sill. The external sill beneath the Western light (which is 18½in. from the end of the chancel wall) is of red sandstone and appears to be an ancient insertion.

#### ASTON CANTLOW.

The Western-most window on the South side of the chancel, which is one of three Dec. two-light windows, has a sill 2ft. lower than that of the middle one. This sill is again 6in. lower than that of the Eastern-most one. In this case the string course is also lowered by 6in., but in the case of the first named window the string course is cut through, and the lower 2ft. of the jambs and mullion are constructed of a different kind of stone to that used elsewhere. The sill slopes internally and its outer edge is 24in. above the floor, but there is no evidence of use as a low side opening. (Qy.) Was the sill lowered for some other purpose? *e.g.*, to obtain additional light.



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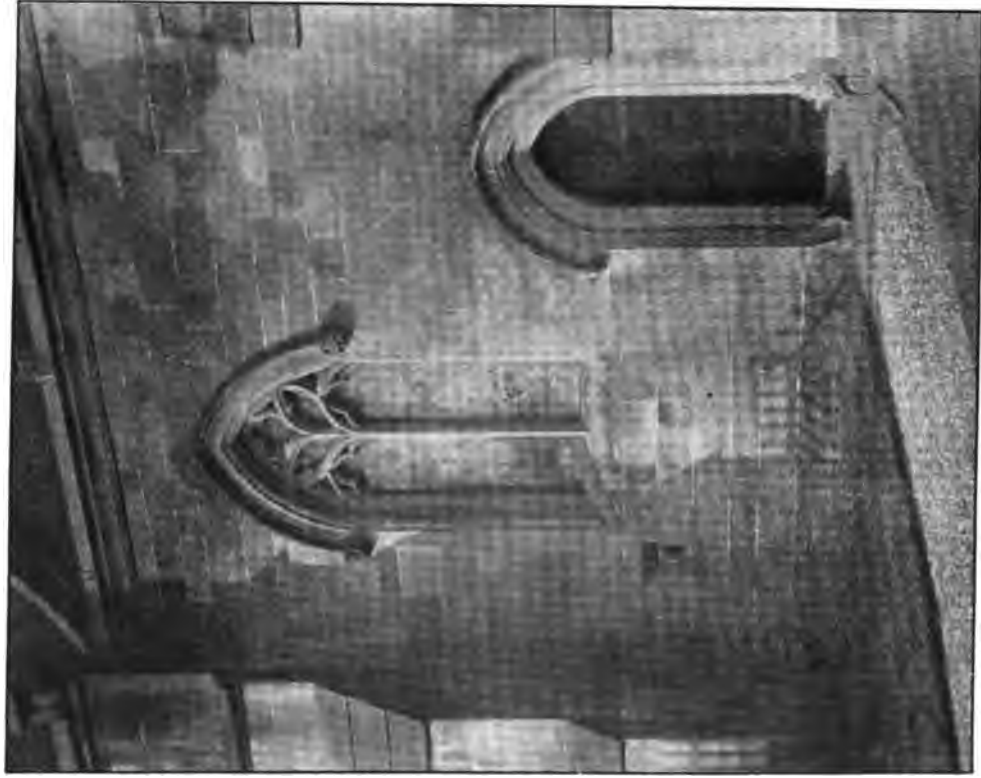
WIXFORD.  
SALFORD.  
ROWINGTON.  
WHICHFORD.







*PLATE I.*



1. SHELDON.



2. SECKINGTON.







*PLATE II.*



1. NEWTON REGIS.



2. BAGINTON.



3. BAXTERLEY.



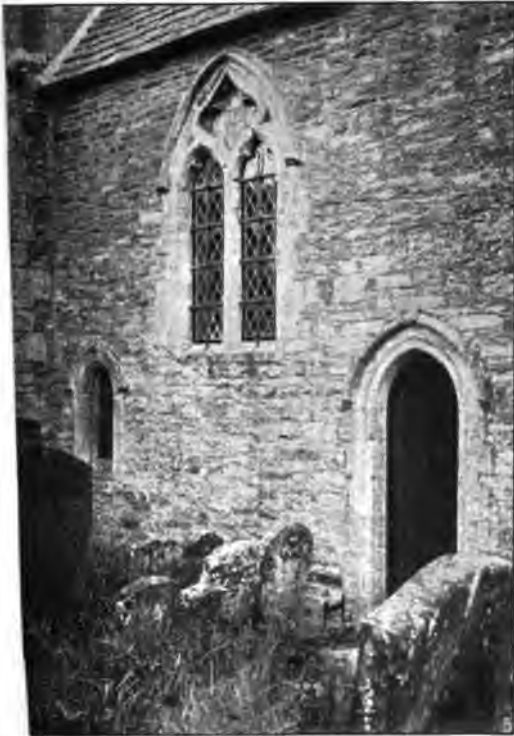
4. WISHAW







*PLATE IV.*



1. WHICHFORD.



2. BRINKLOW.



2. OXHILL.



3. PILLERTON HERSEY.







*PLATE IV.*



1. WHICHFORD.



2. BRINKLOW.



3. BUDBROKE.



4. BURTON HASTINGS.



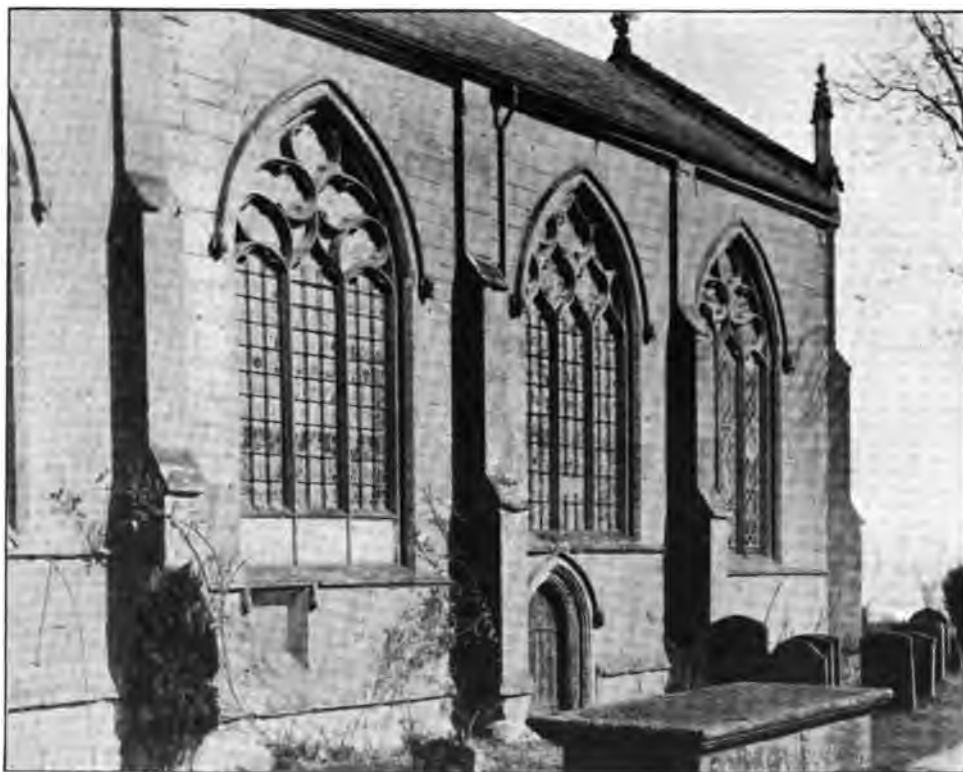




*PLATE V.*



1. SALFORD PRIORS.



2. BILTON.







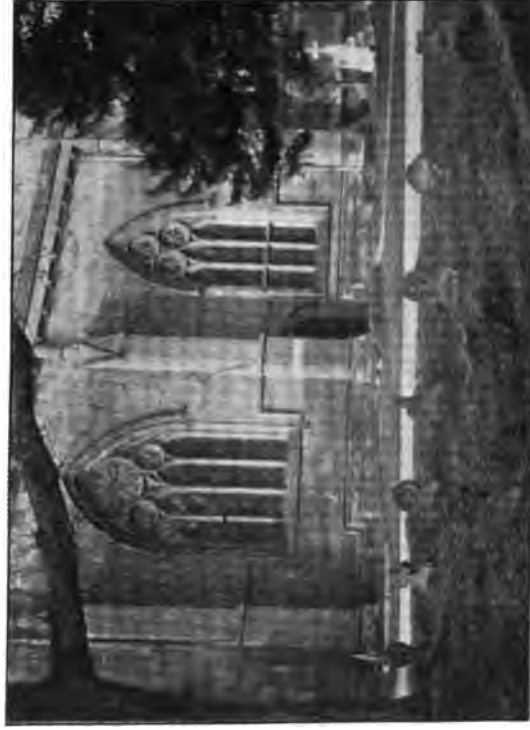
# PLATE VI.



1. LILLINGTON.



2. NORTON LINDSAY.



3. TEMPLE BALSALL.



4. PACKWOOD.







*PLATE VII.*



1. LADBROKE.



2. BURTON DASSETT.







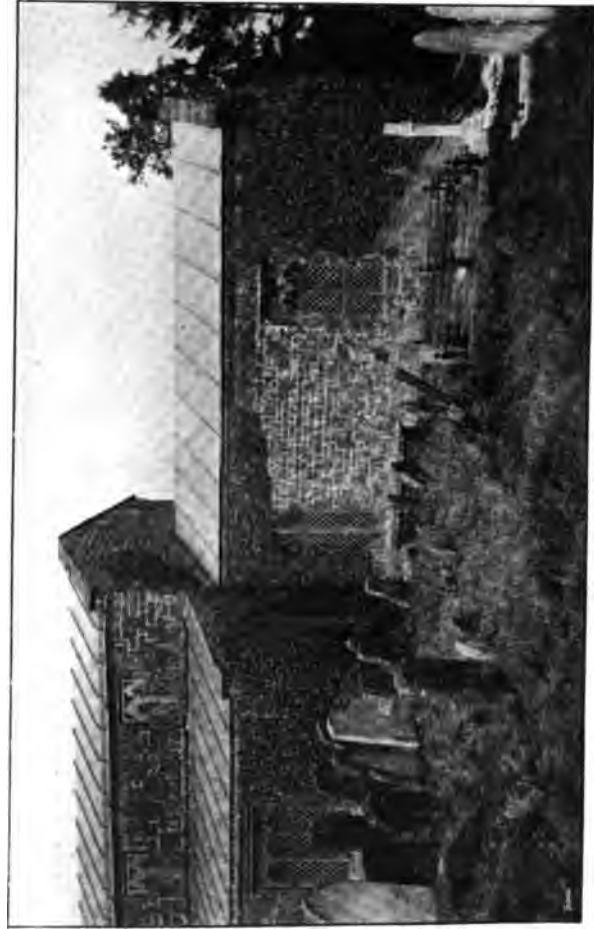
# PLATE VIII.



1. WIXFORD, EXTERIOR.



2. BURTON DASSETT, INTERIOR.



3. SHOTTESWELL, EXTERIOR.



4. SHOTTESWELL, INTERIOR.







*PLATE IX.*



1. ROWINGTON, EXTERIOR.



2. ROWINGTON, INTERIOR.



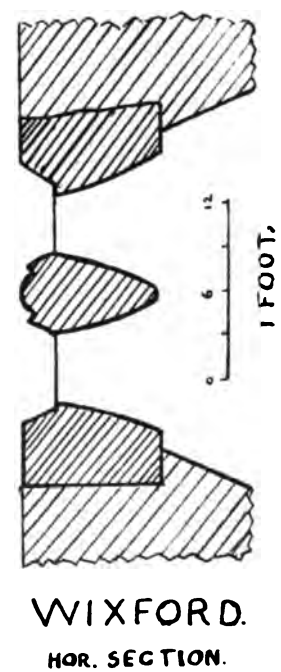
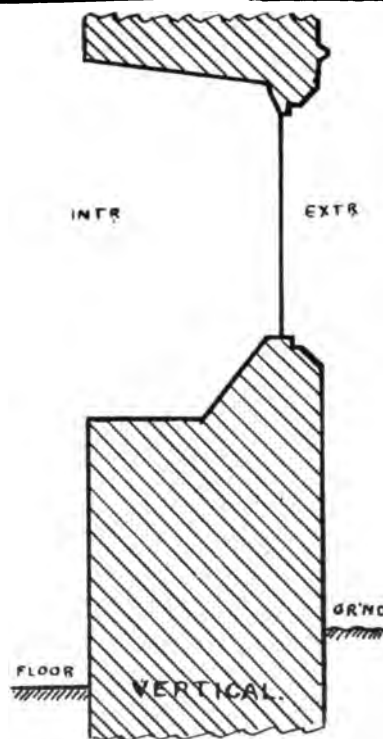
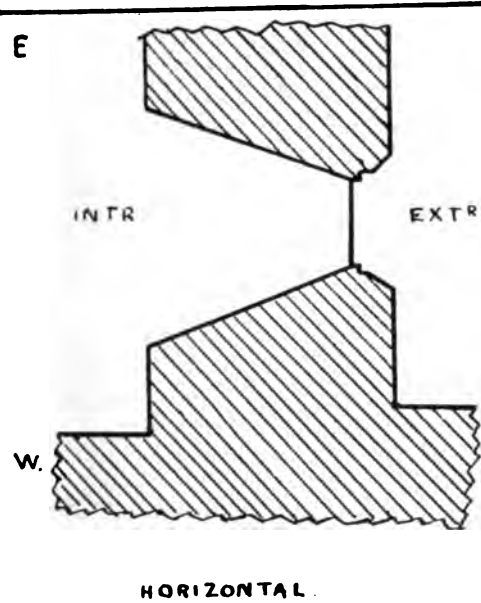
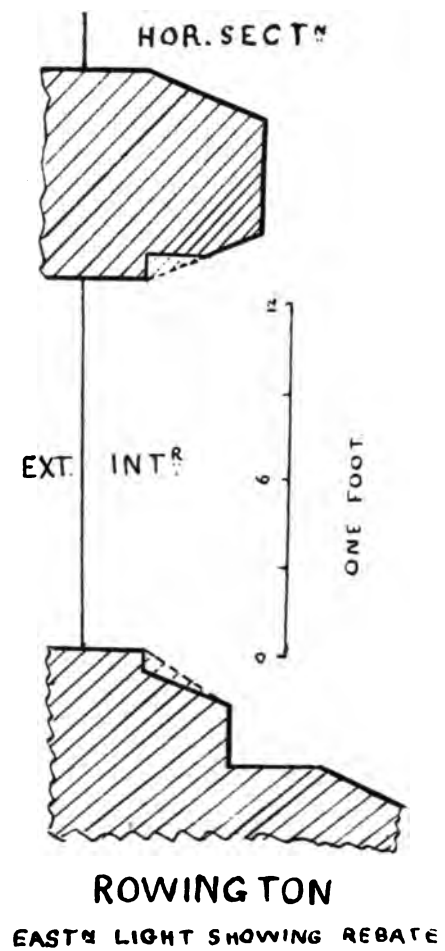
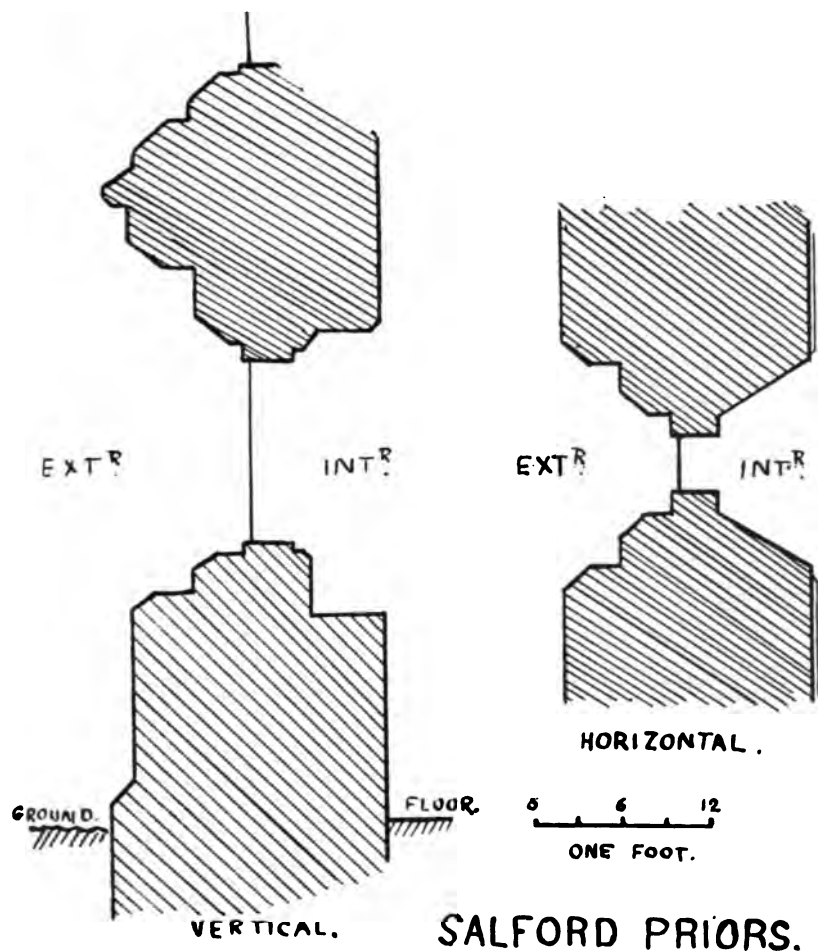
3. WIXFORD, EXTERIOR DETAIL.







# PLATE X.



LOW SIDE OPENINGS. HORIZONTAL AND VERTICAL SECTIONS.































Oversize  
NA 5469 Warw H814  
The low side windows of Warwickshir  
Loeb Design Library APL3765



3 2044 027 212 521

*Houghton, F.T.S.*

*The low side windows of  
Warwickshire churches.*

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NA  
5469  
Warw  
H814

35315



